

On the podium, conductor and musicologist Paul Luongo looks for harmonious combinations of his two areas of expertise. His interpretations breathe life into the past, blending a historically informed perspective with passionate and rousing performances. Luongo's explorations into the archives have revived numerous under-regarded gems that have captivated audiences and deepened the orchestra repertoire. Paul delights in contemporary compositions and commissions as much as he enjoys dusty scores and crumbling pages. Whether exploring music of the past or music that looks to future possibilities, Luongo treasures music's ability to transport its listener to another time, place, or state of mind. His concerts encourage the audience to join with the orchestra as they embark on that journey.

At Whitman College, Paul Luongo is a Professor of Music, directing the Whitman Orchestra and teaching courses in music history and film music. Under his direction, the Whitman Orchestra was chosen as a featured orchestra at the National Conference of the College Orchestra Directors Association (2019). From 2018-2025, Luongo was a Paul Garrett Fellow at Whitman College and in 2025 was a Visiting Faculty Fellow at Doshisha University (Kyoto, Japan). In Walla Walla, he has served as the principal guest conductor for the Walla Walla Symphony for the past decade, leading concerts that include their annual Youth and Family Concerts. Through the years, these concerts have reached thousands of children throughout the Walla Walla Valley. A passionate believer in musical education, Luongo previously directed the Walla Walla Symphony Youth Orchestra and led the Washington Jr. All-State Orchestra (2019). Luongo is an active guest conductor across the country, having worked with various orchestras including the Issaquah Philharmonic, the University of Idaho, Florida State University, Messiah College, Carthage College, and Anne Arundel Community College.

As a musicologist, Luongo is happiest when lost in the stacks at a library. His primary scholarly interests consider the development of the American orchestra in the nineteenth century. He has presented nationally and internationally on his research and contributed to *Haydn and His Contemporaries* (Steglein Publishing, 2011) and *The New Grove Dictionary of American Music*, 2nd edition. His music editions of orchestral arrangements by Chicago Symphony Orchestra founder Theodore Thomas have been published by A-R Editions in their *Recent Researches in American Music* and *Special Publications* series. Through his work with A-R Editions, Luongo reintroduced music that was exceedingly popular with nineteenth-century audiences, yet had not been heard in over a century.

Paul Luongo received his undergraduate education at Stetson University (B.M.E.). At the Florida State University, he received advanced degrees in orchestral conducting (M.M.) and musicology (M.M. and Ph.D.). At one point in college, he learned to play the sackbut but no one has ever asked him to play it since. His membership in the College Orchestra Directors Association includes leadership roles (President, 2016, 2026) for the Western Division. When not on the podium, Paul can be found with a good book (sometimes even an awful one) or hiking in the Blue Mountains with his wife, Erin Dorso, and their kids, Beatrice and Cormac.