

# ArtStory

Pursuing quality of life.

## Andrew Sewell

Music Director, Conductor

### Genre:

Symphony

### Notable Guest Conducting:

Toronto Symphony

Detroit Symphony

New Zealand Symphony

Kyushu Symphony, Japan

National Symphony of Mexico

### Notable Awards:

New Zealand Aotea Performing Arts Trust's Star Award

Australian Guarantee Corporation's Young Achiever's Award

*"The feeling of hearing live music in a concert hall is unlike any other experience."*

*—Andrew Sewell*

Andrew Sewell didn't choose a life of music. It chose him, then took him around the globe.

It landed the New Zealand-born maestro in Wichita five years ago where he serves as the music director and conductor of the Wichita Symphony Orchestra; only the sixth in its 60-year history. Previously, his career whisked him to guest conducting appearances in Japan, Hong Kong, Mexico and across the country.

Sewell's introduction to music came early - he was born into it. His father played in a string quartet, his mother loved to sing, he and his six siblings played piano. One profound childhood memory finds a young Sewell at the New Zealand Symphony Orchestra where he was forever inspired by the music of Beethoven. Ambitious to learn more, he bought his first violin at age 10 and conducted his first performance in high school. His first public performances as an assistant conductor came with the Mercury Opera in Auckland. "Though it was really more of a volunteer position," he laughs. But what's money when you are hired to fulfill your passion?

Then the jobs came; the Auckland Philharmonia, the New Zealand Symphony, guest conducting appearances around the world and more. Through it all, his wife of more than 20 years supports and inspires Sewell - while maintaining her career as an accomplished violinist.

Just as pianists use their fingers on a keyboard to create a sound, Sewell uses his body as an instrument. He interprets a meaning, a feeling, translating notes on a page into physical motion and then that motion into sound.

"That sound cannot be recreated in a recording," he says. "The feeling of hearing live music in a concert hall is unlike any other experience. It's an unbridled energy and sensation that I, as a conductor, have



to maintain to be focused. It's not about me, it's about the piece."

He labors to bring a well-rounded repertoire of music to the people of Wichita. To provide familiar sounds to his audiences yet also whet their appetite for new experiences. He emphasizes the importance of music in schools. "Education is not just about a good score on a math test. Art forms stimulate and enhance our thinking. Music, art, experience of smells and sights, of culture...all broaden your outlook."



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