

JAMES VANDEMARK

"Some people seemed destined to lead unconventional lives, and James VanDemark is certainly one of them," said the New York Times in the first of its three profiles on VanDemark. Performer, academic, boxer, producer, and entrepreneur - these are the principal roles VanDemark has successfully played in a highly diverse career spanning nearly four decades.

VanDemark's arts and culture projects have been featured in the New York Times, Connoisseur Magazine, on the MacNeil/Lehrer NewsHour, the BBC, CBC, NPR, and in many other media outlets around the world. In considerable demand as a speaker on entrepreneurial skills at colleges across the United States and Canada, VanDemark has also received great acclaim for his frequent role as narrator with many prominent symphony orchestras, including more than 40 performances with the Rochester Philharmonic, 15 with the Texas Festival Orchestra, the Rochester Fringe Festival, and many others.

Appointed to the Eastman School of Music at the age of 23, VanDemark was the youngest faculty member appointed to a professorial position at a major American music school. His students perform in many of the world's great orchestras – the New York Philharmonic, Cleveland Orchestra, Pittsburgh Symphony, Los Angeles Philharmonic, Orpheus Chamber Orchestra, Philadelphia Orchestra, Rochester Philharmonic, Buffalo Philharmonic, Vienna Chamber Orchestra, Tokyo Chamber Orchestra, Singapore Symphony, Hong Kong Philharmonic – and many more throughout the world. His students have also been nominated – and won - for numerous Grammy Awards in different categories, including classical, contemporary, jazz, and bluegrass.

VanDemark's students have also held positions at major music schools, including Indiana University, Oberlin Conservatory, Eastman School of Music, Louisiana State University, Carnegie-Mellon, Peabody Conservatory, University of Delaware, NYU's Steinhardt School of Music, Michigan State University, University of Colorado, University of Alabama, University of Tennessee, and many others.

VanDemark's performing career has included solo appearances with the New York Philharmonic, St. Paul Chamber Orchestra, Buffalo Philharmonic, National Symphony of Mexico, Netherlands Radio Symphony, and many more. Chamber music appearances have included the Cleveland, Guarneri, Muir, Colorado and Ying Quartets, the Gryphon Trio, violinist Yehudi Menuhin, as well as legendary pianists Andre Watts, Alfred Brendel, and Gary Graffman.

VanDemark is also the recipient of commissioned works by many composers, including three Pulitzer Prize winners - Gian-Carlo Menotti, Joseph Schwantner, and Christopher Rouse - for which VanDemark utilized corporate sponsorships and other unique fundraising ventures.

Acclaimed for his appearances in the revival of Jacob Druckman's ballet VALENTINE with the Rochester City Ballet, VanDemark was also featured in the world premiere performances of Adrienne Elisha's work INCANTATION with the Rochester City Ballet, in which VanDemark also sang, spoke, and danced.

As a founding member of Square Peg Entertainment, VanDemark developed and represented screenplays and properties of Oscar winners Ernest Thompson, Horton Foote, Eiko Ishioka, Ron Harwood, Oscar nominee Hesper Anderson, Stu Silver, Paul Theroux, and many others. VanDemark also developed the World War I story CODE BROTHERS for CTV (Toronto), THE WAYNE AND SUE SHOW for Tribune Entertainment, produced the album and music video THE GIFT with singer Linda Eder for Atlantic Records, and with television legend Sir David Frost, developed the Frederick Forsyth novella THE SHEPHERD in conjunction with Shaftesbury Films (Toronto). VanDemark also co-produced and cast SPEAK LOW, the highly successful Brooklyn Academy of Music (BAM) Gala featuring Jerry Orbach, Donna Murphy, Duncan Sheik, and other stars of Broadway and the Metropolitan Opera in the music of Kurt Weill. VanDemark has also served as Music Supervisor for John Cougar Mellencamp's film, AFTER IMAGE.

Acclaimed for his extensive work in the Native American community, VanDemark commissioned and developed the Native collaborative musical work CIRCLE OF FAITH, profiled in The New York Times, Cleveland Plain Dealer, Detroit Free Press, Minneapolis Star and Tribune, Denver Post, Lakota Times, and on NPR's Morning Edition. VanDemark has helped produce more than 40 performances of the work in the United States and Canada.

As an accomplished amateur boxer, VanDemark was recently profiled on the front page of The Wall Street Journal, The Strad, on CBC's "Q," WNYC's "Soundcheck," and was featured at length on ESPN's E-60. VanDemark's conditioning and boxing program for students, musicians and the general public has also brought him considerable worldwide acclaim. His recent boxing/conditioning presentations include the University of Tennessee, the University of Alabama, Louisiana State University, Loyola University New Orleans, and the University of Santiago (Chile).

VanDemark attributes the longevity and diversity of his career not only to his own athletic training, but also to his work in the health care field in the 1970's, when he worked extensively under the renowned neurologist Dr. Howard S. Barrows at the McMaster University School of Medicine in Canada in developing the groundbreaking Simulated/Standardized Patient Program (SPP). As a result of these achievements, VanDemark was named to the Industry Board of the American Health Council in October 2017.