

Jamie Bernstein with her father, 1957.

## the Bernstein legacy lives on

*“Classical music is so beautiful and rich and has so much going on.”*

*It’s a never-ending font of beauty.”*

◀ That’s what Jamie Bernstein answers when asked why she cares about developing and presenting concerts that draw kids into music, a one-time project that grew into her life’s work. The connection is natural: the Young People’s Concerts of her famous father, Leonard Bernstein, are the stuff of legend. Now Jamie Bernstein works with educational concerts—and excels at it—because she’s energized by the same passion, the same musical life force that inhabited him.



This month Jamie Bernstein makes her third trip to share the magic of music with the Minnesota Orchestra and its youngest audience members. “I did a set of all-Bernstein Young People’s Concerts here in 2005,” she notes, “and then a week of concerts focusing on Mozart’s genius last spring. Each time I love it more. Having two concerts a day for several consecutive days is wonderful, because it lets me feel I’m meeting everyone in a single visit. On top of that, I have real dialogues with the kids at these concerts. And I never tire of having their parents come up and tell me, ‘I’m a music lover today because of

your father’s concerts.’ Add the thrill of working with a great ensemble like the Minnesota Orchestra, and I never, ever have to pretend to be excited about my topic. Kids and families see that, and we have an instant connection.”

Jamie Bernstein is still enthusiastic about a decision she made on her first Minnesota trip: “I became a Musical Mentor, which means I help sponsor bringing kids on buses to the Orchestra’s YP Concerts, through a program of the volunteer group YPSCA. It’s one of my favorite things about Minneapolis!”

Jim Bartsch, the Orchestra’s director of education, is excited about Jamie Bernstein’s return as well.

“Her father’s concerts set the standard for all of us who work with kids and music,” he says. “Like Leonard Bernstein, Jamie treats students as intelligent, and she does it beautifully. She presents complex ideas and repertoire with an affirming attitude—‘of course you can understand this.’ And they do! Our ‘Bernstein Beat’ and ‘Bernstein Live’ programs this month will be highlights of our year.”



Jamie Bernstein portraying Mozart in “Mozart, You Kid, You!” with the Orchestra, April 2008.  
Photo:  
Travis Anderson

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