



### **Focus on the Future**

## **Guest Predictions: Yoichi Udagawa**

*Guest Predictions is a regular feature in which we ask leaders in a number of professions questions that affect us all.*

*Music Director and Conductor of the Cape Ann Symphony Orchestra, the Melrose Symphony Orchestra, and the Quincy Symphony Orchestra, in Massachusetts, Yoichi Udagawa is on the faculty of the Boston Conservatory where he teaches conducting. In addition, he is a cover conductor at the Boston Pops Orchestra.*

*The son of a nuclear physicist father and singer/artist mother, Yoichi was born in Tokyo, Japan in 1964. His family immigrated to the United States soon thereafter. He began playing the violin at age four and made his conducting debut at the age of fifteen. After receiving a music degree from the University of Texas at Austin, he continued advanced studies in conducting with Gunther Schuller, and Seiji Ozawa.*

**Q: What changes in your professional environment in the past 3-5 years have you found to be the most beneficial?**

**A:** The tremendous development of the internet has made it so much easier to collaborate with fellow musicians, composers, and performers. To give an example, the Cape Ann Symphony commissioned composer Robert Bradshaw to write a piece using the Virginia Lee Burton's well known children's book "Katy and the Big Snow". Rob was able to send me drafts with audio and sound via email/internet. This kind of thing could never have been done before, and greatly simplified our work.

**Q: What changes have been the most troubling to you?**

**A:** The lack of funding for the arts has of course been a problem historically, but in these economic times, it has become even more difficult. This requires careful planning and use of resources, and is a real challenge.

**Q: How will globalization (e.g. the emergence of new global powers, such as China and India) affect your professional area in the near term?**

**A:** Globalization will not affect my professional area in the near term, with the possible exception of how it affects our economy and how that impacts support for the arts.

**Q: What significant challenges might be anticipated in your professional area in the next few years?**

**A:** The most significant challenges are to keep live performances of classical music relevant and exciting to a whole new generation of people, and finding ways that will attract them into coming to listen - because if they do, they will be hooked.

**Q: What are the greatest challenges confronting young professionals in Western culture today?**

**A:** Young professionals today are facing a constantly, quickly evolving, 24 hours a day economy that requires them to be creative, always learning and growing. They have to be prepared completely, and have equal amounts of people as well as technology skills. It's a brave new world.