

Pianist Karl Paulnack is a keynote speaker, writer, workshop facilitator, and national thought leader on the Power of Music. He has keynoted major national conventions such as [Texas Music Educators Association](#), Organization of American Kodaly Educators, Phi Mu Alpha Sinfonia, Iowa Bandmasters Association, CBDNA, Michigan Music Conference, and many others. His writings on music have been cited or excerpted in numerous publications, orchestra program books, and quoted in official testimony to the United States Congress.

Karl served as Director of the Boston Conservatory's Music Division from 2002-2013 and Dean of the School of Music at Ithaca College from 2013-2020. Previously, he held faculty positions at Tanglewood, Music Academy of the West, Round Top, and Madeline Island festivals, as well as the University of Minnesota and University of Southern California. His work in opera includes conducting and coaching positions at several universities and festivals including the Tanglewood Music Center, where he was a member of the team responsible for the historic 50th anniversary performance of Peter Grimes.

Karl participates in national leadership with several organizations. He was elected to the National Executive Committee of Phi Mu Alpha Sinfonia, which honored him with the Signature Sinfonian award in 2011. He served for six years as an elected Commissioner of the National Association of Schools of Music Commission on Accreditation and works as a visiting evaluator and consultant for [NASM](#). He is an associate and consultant with the [Aspen Leadership Group](#).

Devoted to practices that cultivate joy in his own life and the lives of others, Karl's interests include developing and coaching authentic leadership, mission and vision work, and building high-performing teams in high-joy environments. He lives in Ithaca, NY with his husband Dave and their dog Mato. Karl is an Intern Chaplain at the Cayuga Medical Center in Ithaca, and is currently completing a 400-hour certification in Clinical Pastoral Education. He is also a passionate, inexperienced potter, and spends several hours most days covered in mud.