Women's Experiences in Conducting

The essence of a woman is male conductors. This results in fewer women being tenured conductors.

Unfortunately, these quotes are only a few amongst many things said about the (in)ability of women to be successful professional conductors. Criticisms of female conductors most often come down to forms of objectification and/or essentializing.

Conclusions

Many assume gender equality has been reached. From the lack of female conductors both at the collegiate and professional level, and with the evidence that there are equally talented female conductors, it is evident that gender discrimination exists.

In order for more women to make it to the podium, audiences, musicians, and boards of directors need to recognize the problem and act to fix the inequality.

A Year of Inclusivity

Members of the Music and Theatre Arts Department at UW-EC, including both faculty and students, have created a project as part of the “Year of Inclusivity,” as it addresses the underrepresentation of women in the field of conducting.