



# 10 things cool things about Grant Harville

1. **What's the most unusual place you've ever conducted a performance?**

This has got to be the Idaho Horse Park (a giant barn, basically), in a program for horses and orchestra. It's the only time in my life when I've had to work with dressage specialists to select music to accompany walk, trot, and canter.

2. **If you hadn't pursued a career in music, what do you think you'd be doing now?**

Nearing the end of a long, illustrious career playing basketball in the NBA, obviously.

3. **If you could have dinner with any historical figure, living or dead, who would it be and why?**

Ethel Smyth. Not only was she a brilliant composer who was connected to virtually every important cultural figure of her day, she was also utterly uninterested in keeping her mouth shut, so you know she was spilling the tea.

4. **Who would play you in a biopic about your life?**

Jason Segel. We're the same height, and we exude similar amounts of dashing leading-man charisma.

5. **Who is your favourite Canadian artist, outside of classical music?**

I fell in love with the Quebecois folk band Le Vent du Nord the first time I heard them almost 10 years ago. Sharing the stage with them for a symphonic show remains one of the highlights of my life.

6. **What's the best piece of advice you've ever received, and who gave it to you?**

I've been fortunate to have many brilliant people in my personal and professional life to provide guidance and support along the way, but very few of them offered the kind of pithy one-liners that make for good answers to this kind of question. (The closest I can think of is my brother saying "Never date girls who name their cars" but I don't think that's the kind of thing we're going for here.) So I'll pick the Zen adage "When you are tired, sleep; when you are hungry, eat." I genuinely believe we could solve all the world's problems if everyone on Earth did, or had the capacity to do, those two things.

7. **What's a hobby or pastime you enjoy that might surprise people?**

I freely admit that I grew up a part of the video game generation. I still love playing especially indie games when I can. And any day I can get some yoga in is a good day.

8. **If you could instantly master any skill outside of conducting, what would it be?**

It's tempting to say something like chainsaw juggling, just to be fun at parties, but realistically, given the option, I'd pick instant fluency in every language on the planet. I love travel, and speaking the local

language everywhere I went would remove the most stressful part.

9. **What sport, and what team, do you cheer for?**

Having been born in Wisconsin, it's a legal requirement for me to be a Green Bay Packers fan. If I were to ever change allegiance, four guys in cheeseheads would break into my house in the middle of the night and force-feed me brats and sauerkraut until I retracted my apostasy.

10. **What's your guilty pleasure?**

Swedish fish.

