

*A Grand Celebration*

*50th Anniversary*

# International Conductors Guild Conference

January 2-5, 2025  
London, England

INTERNATIONAL  
Conductors  
Guild



INTERNATIONAL  
Conductors  
Guild

**INTERNATIONAL  
CONFERENCE 2026**

**DALLAS,  
TEXAS**

# President's Welcome



Welcome Colleagues,

On behalf of the Executive Committee, Conference Committee, and the entire Board of Directors of the International Conductors Guild, welcome to the International Conductors Guild's 2025 Conference here in London at the Royal College of Music! As we embark on the Guild's 50th Anniversary year we welcome attendees from 10 countries from around the world including Canada, UK, Ireland, Belgium, Finland, Germany, Spain, Korea, and Australia and of course the US. I hope that you will take full advantage of this week's many sessions, designed exclusively for conductors.

The International Conductors Guild provides this unique conference each year for its members to meet with other conductors, to learn, to share, to socialize, and to keep abreast of trends in our field. You are going to have a wonderful time getting to know new colleagues, catching up with old ones, learning, sharing, and connecting. If you have any questions, please speak with one of our Board Members – they all have a Board Member badge on their name tag, or our Executive Director, Jan Wilson. If you have signed up for a Mentorship Session, you will be hearing from our co-chairpersons, Larry Isaacson and Peter Stafford Wilson about your mentoring time.

Membership in the International Conductors Guild means many things, but the most important aspect of being a member is the ability to meet with colleagues. No matter where you conduct the International Conductors Guild exists to provide you mentoring, resources, conducting workshops, and many other services to guide you throughout your career.

Please stay active, tell your colleagues who are not members of the International Conductors Guild to join, and never hesitate to let us know what you need. I am always available through email. Our Executive Director, Jan Wilson, is likewise always available by email or by phone during regular business hours.

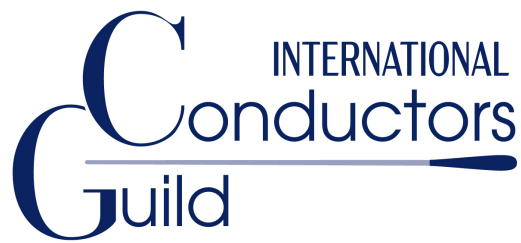
Again, welcome to London and prepare for a wonderful conference!

Claire Fox Hillard, D.M.A.

President, International Conductors Guild

Music Director, Albany Symphony Orchestra

[chillard@albanysymphony.org](mailto:chillard@albanysymphony.org)



## 2025 International Conference

London, England

Dr. Claire Fox Hillard, President

Ms. Jan Wilson, Executive Director

Dr. Dominique Royem, Conference Consultant

# Schedule

Thursday, January 2, 2025

6:30 pm

Let's Connect Colleagues Party! Join your colleagues in the bar area of the Marriott London Kensington Hotel, 147C Cromwell Road, for a social get-together prior to the beginning of the conference sessions. Arrive at the Marriott, settle in, and gather with all conference delegates for an evening of laughter, stories, photos, and much more.

Location - Marriott London Kensington Hotel - 147C Cromwell Road, London (near Gloucester Rd. Tube)

Reservations and payment \$35/person are required. Email the office at [guild@internationalconductorsguild.org](mailto:guild@internationalconductorsguild.org) to make your reservation if you haven't done so already.

*(Stop at the registration table in the Cast Iron Bar & Grill and collect your red drink ticket. This will entitle you to one drink of either beer, wine, or a soft drink, plus shared hors d'oeuvres. Additional drinks are available at your own expense.)*

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# Schedule

Friday, January 3, 2025

7:30am - 8:30am

Breakfast on your own

8:30am - 9:00am

Conference Registration  
Royal College of Music - Gallery

\*\*Stop by the registration table - everyone MUST have a name badge before entering the Amaryllis Fleming Concert Hall and sign the Audio/Video/Insurance release form required of all attendees.

# Schedule

Friday, January 3, 2025

- 9:15am - 9:30am Welcome to London and the 2025 Conference of the International Conductors Guild!  
Claire Fox Hillard, President, International Conductors Guild
- 9:40am - 10:10am Rebecca Nederhiser  
“Trailblazers: Exploring Works by British Women Composers”
- 10:15am - 10:45am Bernd Ruf  
“Classical Crossover as a particular challenge for conductors”
- 10:45am - 11:00am Break
- 11:05am - 11:35am Hildegard Schön  
“Conducting leadership - Building an online and training business”
- 11:40am - 12:10am Alexander Adiarte  
“Conducting Our Future”
- 12:15pm - 1:30pm Lunch on your own  
Sandwiches and other refreshments are available at the RCM Café. Please take advantage of this as there are few nearby restaurants or pubs for quick meals.
- 1:40pm - 2:45pm Roundtables - all are invited to participate
- 2:50pm - 3:20pm Majella Clarke  
“The Role of Technology in Expanding Conducting Practice and its Aesthetic Implications”
- 3:25pm - 3:55pm Lawrence Golan  
“Score Study Passes; Holst’s The Planets”
- 4:00pm - 4:30pm Peter Linnitt, Librarian  
Royal College of Music
- 4:30pm - 4:45pm Break  
Enjoy a snack at the RCM Café and visit our fantastic Exhibitors in Fleming Hall.
- 4:50pm - 5:20pm Lauren Reynolds  
“Trancendence: The Music of Henry L. Dorn”
- 5:25pm - 5:55pm Dominic Grier  
“George Hurst (1926-2012) - Pedagogy, Performance, and Influence”
- 6:00pm - 6:30pm Gregory Peterson  
“The Other March King: Kenneth J. Alford”
- 6:30pm Dinner on your own  
\*\*Be sure to check the sign-up sheets for Group Dinners!

# Schedule

## Saturday, January 4, 2025

- 7:30am - 8:30am Breakfast on your own
- 8:00am - 8:45am International Conductors Guild - Board of Directors Meeting  
Location: Royal College of Music
- 8:30am - 9:00am Registration - continued
- 9:00am - 9:30am Jon Mitchell  
“Gustav Holst: Composer and Conductor as Music Educator”
- 9:40am - 10:10am Carolyn Watson  
“The 1874 Project: A Commissioning Initiative at the University of Illinois”
- 10:15am - 11:30am Julian Lloyd Webber, OBE
- 11:45am - 12:30pm Debbie Wiseman, OBE, Classic FM’s Composer in Residence - a conversation with  
American/British composer, Mike Ladouceur
- 12:30pm - 1:30pm Lunch Break  
Sandwiches and other refreshments are available at the RCM Café. Please take advantage of  
this as there are few nearby restaurants or pubs for quick meals.
- 1:30pm - 3:30pm Conductor Workshop - Mark Wigglesworth
- Participating Conductors*  
Sam Scheer - Royal College of Music, London, UK  
Dr. Dominique Royem - Fort Bend Symphony Orchestra, TX, USA  
Alexander Adiarte - Stuttgarter Musikschule
- Musicians*  
Violin I - Juliette Roos  
Violin II - Tanja Roos  
Viola - Yume Fujise  
Violoncello - Eliza Millett  
Kontrabass - Toby Hughes  
Keyboard - Jeremy Cooke
- 3:45pm - 4:15pm Mark Wigglesworth - a conversation with Toby Purser  
“The Silent Musician ~ Why Conducting Matters”
- 4:15pm - 4:30pm Break  
Enjoy a snack at the RCM Café and visit our fantastic Exhibitors in Fleming Hall.

# Schedule

Saturday, January 4, 2025

- 4:30pm - 5:00pm Nicholas Palmer - a conversation with Jonathan Allen  
“Creating the perfect recording - an Abbey Road Experience”
- 5:10pm - 5:40pm International Conductors Guild Annual Membership Meeting  
Election of Directors  
Election of Officers  
Other Business  
\*\*This session is for active members of the International Conductors Guild, only.
- 6:00pm Dinner - be sure to sign up for Group Dinners at the Registration Desk



# Schedule

Sunday, January 5, 2025

- 7:00am - 8:00am Breakfast on your own
- 8:30am - 9:00am Cynthia Katsarelis  
“An Approach to Successful Social Engagement Projects”
- 9:05am - 9:35am Edward Cumming  
“What Brahms is trying to tell us....are we listening?”
- 9:40am - 10:10am Yunn-Shan Ma  
“Unearthing a Hidden Gem: The Historical and Practical Significance of Gustav Holst”
- 10:15am - 10:45am Paul Richard Jenkins  
“Pictorial Phrase Analysis”
- 10:50am - 11:20am Michael Mishra  
“Insurance Policies and “Immodest Analogies”: The original version of Shostakovich’s 9th Symphony”
- 11:30am - 12:00pm Richard Brunson  
“Ralph Vaughan Williams’s “The Pilgrims’ Progress” - Problems and Solutions for Future Performances”
- 12:05pm - 12:30pm Yajie Ye  
“The Conductor as Innovator and Adaptor: Creativity and Collaboration in Recording Sessions”



## Becoming a Member

During the year 2025, the International Conductors Guild will celebrate 50 years as the only global nonprofit serving conductors around the world and dedicated to encouraging and promoting the highest standards in the art and profession of conducting. ICG membership currently stretches to nearly every continent including North and South America, Australia, New Zealand, Asia, Europe, and South Africa!

Being a member of the ICG benefits you in many ways—from networking and mentoring, to the feel-good aspect of volunteering, to developing lasting personal and professional relationships.

If you're a member of the ICG, ask your friends and colleagues to join us. Tell them about the work we do. Send them to our website or bring them to conference or one of our workshops. Tell them about our online Podium Talks with new and exciting speakers lined up for the spring and summer. But most importantly, tell them about conference, about the old friends you connected with, and the new friends you added to your contacts. Tell them about the Journal articles, the many benefits members receive, and tell them from the moment they join they will have lasting, committed friends who will support them, guide them, laugh or cry with them, and always be there for them.

*That is what ICG membership is all about.  
50 Years!*

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## Presenters



Alexander G. Adiarte

Alexander G. Adiarte is one of the most talented and most dynamic conductors of his generation. Since 2006, the violinist and conductor has been the Music Director of the Leonberg Symphony Orchestra, developing the orchestra into one of the top regional orchestras near Stuttgart. In 2012, Alexander Adiarte was appointed as Artistic Director of Germany's oldest orchestral society, the Orchesterverein Stuttgart. Finally, Adiarte is also the Orchestra Director of the Stuttgarter Musikschule, where he also works closely with the Stuttgarter Philharmonie and the Württembergisches

Chamber Orchestr of Heilbronn.

Alexander Adiarte has conducted concerts in Australia, Brazil, China, Taiwan, Japan, the USA and all over Europe, including prestigious venues such as Orchestra Hall in Minneapolis, Millennium Park in Chicago, the



# Presenters

Baden-Baden Festspielhaus & the Liederhalle Stuttgart.

Born in Minneapolis, Minnesota, Adiarte studied Music and Violin Performance at Yale University with Erick Friedman, and completed his Diploma in Conducting at the Hochschule für Musik und Theater “Felix Mendelssohn Bartholdy” in Leipzig with Prof. GMD Gert Bahner. As a Conducting Fellow at the Tanglewood Music Center, Adiarte learned from Kurt Masur, Christoph von Dohnanyi, and Rafael Frühbeck de Burgos. Furthermore, he has also participated in Master Classes with Helmuth Rilling, Peter Eötvös, and Jorma Panula.

The American conductor was a Scholarship recipient of the International Ensemble Modern Academy, include the Forum Neues Musiktheater at the Staatsoper Stuttgart, the Richard-Wagner-Verband, and the Akademie Musiktheater heute. In 2019, Adiarte won the prize of Best Interpreter at the Kazakhstan International Conducting Competition.



Richard Brunson

Richard Brunson has a bachelor's degree in music education (1996), a master's degree in orchestral conducting (1998), both from Brigham Young University in Provo, Utah, and a Doctor of Musical Arts degree in instrumental conducting from the University of Nevada Las Vegas (2009). He started his career teaching high school instrumental music in Salt Lake City, UT, as well as at Salt Lake Community College. He has also taught for the Universities of Wisconsin System, and Goshen College in Indiana. His main instrument is French horn and agrees whole-heartedly with Richard

Strauss who said that the horn is the soul of the orchestra.



Majella Clarke

Majella Clarke is a conductor, oboist, pianist and sound artist in Helsinki, Finland. As a conductor, her practice focuses on both experimental conducting with technology, as well as traditional conducting of classical music and contemporary ensembles. She has led professional ensembles and orchestras including Lithuanian State Symphony Orchestra, Dubrovnik Symphony Orchestra (Croatia), Seinäjoki City Orchestra (Finland), Tasmanian Symphony Orchestra (Australia), Bohuslav Martinu Philharmonic Orchestra (Czech Republic), BDB Musikakademie Wind Symphony (Germany), Ensemble900 (Lugano Switzerland), Pärnu City Orchestra (Estonia). Her recent projects include

Conducting Nature Scores workshop at the Vartiosaari residency in Finland, Spherical Harmonics, which creates gesture scores and sculptures inspired by the shapes of spherical harmonics with a sonic baton; premiering and conducting graphic scores working alongside multiple living composers; she developed the sonic baton project in collaboration with intelligent instruments lab in Iceland using neural audio synthesis technologies. She premiered the work Loxodrome at the SIM residency, Iceland, that brought together sonic baton, oboe, theremin, electric violin and synth, and drum pad synth for exploring new ensemble dynamics, agentalities, and aesthetics. she co-founded Helsinki Art Ensemble (HAE!) for creating multisensorial immersive experiences using new media and exploring new performance formats, and directs the Korvat Auki Ensemble as part of a society for contemporary music in Finland. Her Master of Music Thesis explored Innovative Practice in Conducting : Graphic Scores, Sonic Batons and Open Ensembles for NewPerformance Formats.

# Presenters



Edward Cumming

Edward Cumming is the new Martha Raley Peak Director of Orchestral Studies at Meadows School of the Arts in Dallas, Texas. He comes to SMU from Connecticut, where he was Director of Orchestral Studies at The Hartt School and Music Director of the Hartford Symphony Orchestra, hailed for its remarkable artistic growth during his tenure. Cumming was Resident Conductor of the Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra, where he assisted the late great Mariss Jansons. As Resident Conductor of the Florida Orchestra, Cumming conducted a recording of The Star-Spangled Banner with Whitney Houston for Super Bowl XXV. In Europe, Cumming has been a guest with orchestras in Spain, Serbia, Czech Republic, Northern Ireland, and Italy. In the United States, he has conducted the Los Angeles, Rochester and Buffalo Philharmonic orchestras, the Detroit, San Diego, and Oregon Symphony orchestras, and the Boston Pops. He made his South American debut with the Filarmónica de Bogotá, conducting Schoenberg's Pelleas und Melisande on short notice. Artists with whom he has performed include Yo Yo Ma, Sarah Chang, Joshua Bell, Doc Severinson, James Taylor and Emmanuel Ax. Cumming studied at Yale with Otto-Werner Mueller, and has performed in master classes led by Riccardo Muti, Pierre Boulez and Maurice Abravanel. As an undergraduate at the University of California at Berkeley, he was awarded the Eisner Prize for Creative Achievement in the Arts. In 2010, he received an Honorary Doctorate from Trinity College.



Lawrence Golan

Lawrence Golan currently serves as Music Director/Conductor of the Yakima Symphony Orchestra (Washington), the York Symphony Orchestra (Pennsylvania), and the Lamont Symphony Orchestra & Opera Theatre at the University of Denver (Colorado). In addition, he is the Music Director Laureate of the Denver Philharmonic Orchestra. Lawrence Golan was the Grand Prize Winner of the 2024 St. Cecilia International Music Competition in the UK and was also awarded First Prize in four different categories, both as conductor and composer. In addition, he is a 10-time winner of ASCAP Awards for the Innovative Programming of Contemporary Music, 5-time Global Music Award winner, 3-time American Prize winner, 3-time Downbeat Magazine Award winner, and 2-time Prestige Music Award winner. He was the Grand Prize Winner of the American Prize in Orchestral Programming and the First Place winner of the Ictus International Music Competition. A staunch advocate for music education, Lawrence Golan has been Director of Orchestral Studies and head of the graduate conducting program at the University of Denver since 2001. There he has won eight ASCAP Awards for Adventurous Programming of Contemporary Music, three Downbeat Magazine Awards for “Best College Symphony Orchestra,” and The American Prize for Orchestral Performance – Collegiate Division. His latest honor is the 2021 Distinguished Scholar Award from the University of Denver.

# Presenters



Dominic Grier

Dominic Grier enjoys a varied career as a conductor and educator. Having developed a particular specialism in conducting for dance, he has served as a frequent guest conductor with many of the foremost ballet companies in the UK and Europe, and as Staff Conductor for The Royal Ballet, and Associate Conductor of Northern Ballet. He was also an Assistant and Guest Conductor at the Opéra National de Lyon from 2007- 2011. Dominic has been Music Director of the Worthing Philharmonic Orchestra since 2014, and is also conductor of the Symphony Orchestra and Sinfonia at the Junior

Royal Academy of Music. Recent symphonic, ballet and opera performances have seen him conduct in the UK, France, Belgium, Slovakia, Slovenia, Romania, Denmark, Austria, Brazil and Japan. Dominic is also a much-respected and established teacher of conducting, serving on the faculty at the Royal Academy of Music, London. He is additionally a founding Director of the Girton Conducting Course, and Director Designate of London Conducting Academy.



Claire Fox Hillard

Claire Fox Hillard, was appointed Music Director and Conductor of the Albany Symphony Orchestra in 1988 and begins his 37th season with the orchestra. He also serves as an Associate Professor of music at Albany State University. In addition, he currently serves as President of the International Conductors Guild. Hillard held the position of Music Director of the Meridian Symphony Orchestra (MS) from 1991 to 2011 and Music Director of the St. Joseph Symphony (MO) from 1984 to 1987. In the educational field he has led the orchestras of Missouri Western State University, Indiana State University, and Albany State University

A native of Grand Rapids, Michigan, Hillard began piano and violin studies at an early age and made his conducting debut at the age of 18. At age 25, after earning his masters and doctoral degrees from The University of Iowa, he became one of the youngest conductors appointed Music Director of a

professional orchestra. He received training from several notable conductors including James Dixon, Leonard Slatkin, Pierre Boulez, Maurice Abravanel, Jorge Mester, and John Barnett. Maestro Hillard is the recipient of the League of American Orchestra's distinguished Helen M. Thompson Award. Georgia Trend Magazine has honored him as one of the "outstanding leaders in Georgia." The Meridian Council for the Arts honored Hillard with its Artist's Achievement Award and he has been awarded a Dream Award from Albany's annual King Celebration. He is also a graduate of Leadership Albany.

Hillard made his European debut in 1994 conducting the Karlovarsky symfonicky orchestra. Since that time he has returned to conduct that orchestra as well as the Moravian Philharmonic in the Czech Republic, L'Orchestre Chapelle de Lorraine in Brussels, the Filharmonica "Banatul" and Filharmonica Paul Constantnescu in Romania, the Orquesta Sinfonica de San Pedro Sula in Honduras, the Karkov Philharmonic in Ukraine, the Gdansk Philharmonic in Poland, the National Russian Philharmonic, the Orquesta Sinfonica Caxias do Sul in Brazil and the Academic Philharmony of the City of Astana, in the Republic of Kazakhstan. Among the orchestra he has appeared with in this country are the Abilene Philharmonic, West Shore Symphony, North Arkansas Symphony, Tupelo Symphony, Flagstaff Symphony, Cobb Symphony, Quad-City Symphony and Symphony of Southeast Texas.

# Presenters

Hillard's programming is noted for its diversity and blend of major symphonic, choral, operatic repertory, American compositions, and the premieres of new works. He has received seven ASCAP awards for innovative programming and collaborated with a wide variety of composers and artists including Virgil Thomson, Aaron Copland, Alvin Singleton, Adolphus Hailstork, Hilary Hahn, Anthony McGill, Itzhak Perlman, Ruth Laredo, William Warfield, Ray Charles, actresses Debbie Reynolds, fiddle player Mark O'Connor, Chris Brubeck, and the Billy Taylor Trio.



Paul Richard Jenkins

I have been an active musician since a very young age. Whilst still at school I played Double Bass in the Glamorgan and National Youth Orchestra of Wales along with professional groups in Wales. My career was in chemistry at the University of Leicester. I took up conducting in 2004 taking part in the Canford Conducting Course and private lessons with Denise Ham and Roby Purser. I am now Honorary Director of Students Music at the University of Leicester and musical director of Knighton Chamber Orchestra and Knighton Opera.



Cynthia Katsarelis

Dr. Cynthia Katsarelis is in her second year as Assistant Professor of the Practice in Conducting in the Program in Sacred Music at the University of Notre Dame. She has conducted over 50 orchestras following her apprenticeship with the Cincinnati Symphony, Pops, and May Festival. As Music Director of Pro Musica Colorado Chamber Orchestra her commitment to music of new and diverse composers has resulted in numerous commissions and world and regional premieres. In every position, she has worked on social engagement programs and projects. At Notre Dame, she is working on two major projects, a Harriet Tubman project featuring the music of Nkeiru Okoye that engages with the South Bend Community. The second project is collaborating with a scientist to commission a symphonic work with film that artistically addresses climate change and species extinction featuring bugs (insects). Believing in the transformative power of music, Dr. Katsarelis has taught in Haiti since 2004 at L'École de Musique Sainte Trinité in Port-au-Prince and its summer music camps in Cange and near Mirebalais. There, she's conducted L'Orchestre Philharmonique Sainte Trinité, coached chamber ensembles, taught violin pedagogy, and worked with the children's choir, Les Petits Chanteurs. Her commitment to social justice through music includes producing benefit concerts and food drives.

# Presenters



Mike Ladouceur

American/British composer Mike Ladouceur is among the most exciting and significant talents emerging today, with many high-profile film, TV, game and live event projects to his name. Renowned on both sides of the Atlantic, his musical style blends orchestral and ambient electronic textures, and has been described by distinguished conductor and orchestrator Jeff Atmajian as “like listening to a beautiful impressionist painting”.

Most recently, Mike worked with Chromatic London as music team lead to compose all of the bespoke music and sound design for the internationally broadcasted show 1001 Seasons of Elie Saab. Under the music Direction of Daniel Thibaut, Mike and the team wrote the finale for Celine Dion and worked closely with Jennifer Lopez’s team to orchestrate her set. They recorded their score at the world famous Abbey Road studios. Mike’s debut feature film, How I Faked My Life With AI had it’s premiere at the Tribeca Film Festival in 2024 to great acclaim. Just before this, he completed Mizu, a documentary series about Japanese culture in Italy, produced for TaTaTu which was written up in Rolling Stone. He is currently developing the music and music system for a VR game, Mrs. Benz, with the EMMY Nominated Singer Studios. His album, Between Worlds, was recorded at Angel Studios with a 42-piece orchestra and was launched at an immersive art installation at London’s Hospital Club with bespoke visuals.

Mike has written additional music and arrangements for His Dark Materials (HBO/BBC), Marcella (ITV/Netflix), Love. Wedding. Repeat (Netflix) and for Master Moley (Nottage Productions) starring Gemma Arterton, Charles Dance, Julie Walters, Warwick Davis. He has also worked as Orchestrator on major projects including Black Widow (Disney), Mission Impossible: Fallout (Paramount), Ad Astra (Plan B), Gemini Man (Skydance/Paramount), 6 Underground (Netflix), Looking Up (Tianjin Chengzi Yinxiang Media), Where’s My Roy Cohn? (Sony) and Nae Pasaran (BBC Scotland). He also worked on the Music Department of The Emoji Movie (Sony) and Call the Midwife (BBC).

Mike’s notable career highlights are many and varied, and include winning the Angel Award for Best Original Music, Short Film for BirthCloud, and the Tagore Gold Medal for outstanding musical contributions at the Royal College of Music, presented in March 2016 by HRH Prince Charles, the Prince of Wales.

Mike is a passionate educator and holds prestigious teaching posts at two of the world’s leading institutions, London’s Royal College of Music and the University of Cambridge, where he teaches the film music curriculum at both undergraduate and Master’s levels.

# Presenters



Julian Lloyd Webber, OBE

Julian Lloyd Webber enjoys one of the most creative careers in music today. As a solo cellist he has performed with many of the world's greatest orchestras and conductors including the Berlin Philharmonic Orchestra, Czech Philharmonic Orchestra, London Symphony Orchestra and every leading symphony and chamber orchestra in the UK in partnership with such conductors as Sir Georg Solti, Lorin Maazel, Lord Yehudi Menuhin, Sir Neville Marriner, Yevgeny Svetlanov, Esa-Pekka Salonen, Sir Mark Elder and Sir Andrew Davis. He has also collaborated with a wide range of legendary musicians from pianists Sir Clifford Curzon and Murray Perahia to jazz artists Stephane Grappelli and Dame Cleo Laine and rock musician Sir Elton John.

Julian's many recordings include his BRIT Award-winning Elgar Cello Concerto conducted by Yehudi Menuhin – chosen as the 'finest ever version' by BBC Music

Magazine, the Dvorak Cello Concerto with Vaclav Neumann and the Czech Philharmonic, Tchaikovsky's Rococo Variations with the London Symphony Orchestra under Maxim Shostakovich, a coupling of Britten's Cello Symphony and Walton's Cello Concerto with Sir Neville Marriner and the Academy of St Martin in the Fields which was described as 'beyond any rival' in Gramophone magazine and 'Variations', famous as the theme to ITV's long running 'South Bank Show'. Julian has also inspired more than fifty new works for cello from composers as varied as Malcolm Arnold, Joaquín Rodrigo, Andrew Lloyd Webber, James MacMillan, Philip Glass and Eric Whitacre.

In 2007, at the invitation of the Secretary of State for Education, Julian founded the UK Government's In Harmony programme and he continues to Chair Sistema England. The two programmes combined have introduced the power of music to more than sixty thousand school children from the least privileged parts of England. Julian was made a Fellow of the Royal College of Music in 1994 and is the recipient of a Crystal Award from the World Economic Forum (1998) the Classic FM Red Award (2005) and the Incorporated Society of Musicians' Distinguished Musician of the Year Award (2014). Julian has represented the music education sector on BBC1's Question Time and The Andrew Marr Show, BBC2's Newsnight and BBC Radio 4's Today, The World at One, PM, Front Row, and The World Tonight.

In 2014 Julian was forced to retire from playing the cello due to a neck injury which reduced the power of his bowing arm. In July 2015 he was appointed principal of Birmingham Conservatoire. During his five-year tenure he oversaw the move to a new £57 million building and the merging of the existing Conservatoire with the Birmingham School of Acting. In September 2017 the Conservatoire was awarded the Royal status by Her Majesty the Queen.

Julian is married to fellow cellist Jiaxin Cheng. A lifelong Leyton Orient supporter, he was the London Underground's first official busker and the only classical musician to perform at the Closing Ceremony of Olympics 2012.

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## Special Thanks



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# Presenters



Yunn-Shan Ma

Yunn-Shan Ma is a conductor recognized for her versatile and collaborative spirit, with guest appearances alongside ensembles such as the Dohnányi Orchestra Budafok, Cadaques Orchestra, and Taipei Civic Orchestra. In the U.S., she has guest conducted the New York State Ballet, Rochester Philharmonic Orchestra, and Geneva Light Opera, and currently serves as Music Director of the Genesee Valley Orchestra and Chorus. Ma's approach to music is innovative, blending traditional

repertoire with new media, visual arts, and thematic elements to create immersive performances. As an Associate Professor at the Rochester Institute of Technology, she works with experts in AR/VR, Projection Mapping, Audio Engineering, and Film and Animation, continuously pushing the boundaries of live performance. Beyond conducting, Ma is a respected clinician and adjudicator at international festivals and competitions. She has been a key faculty member at the Taipei International Choral Festival since 2015 and frequently guest conducts at NYSSMA Festivals. Ma earned her Doctorate of Musical Arts from the Eastman School of Music after studying conducting, piano, and violin at National Taiwan Normal University. Her career is a testament to her dedication to reimagining classical music and fostering artistic collaboration.



Michael Mishra

British conductor Michael Mishra is currently Director of Orchestral Studies at Southern Illinois University Edwardsville. Born in India and raised in London, he has conducted worldwide, performing with the Bulgarian National Radio Symphony Orchestra in Sofia, the Arpeggione Kammerorchester in Austria, the Orquesta Sinfonica Uncuyo in Argentina, the Saratov Philharmonic in Russia, the Kharkiv Philharmonic in Ukraine, and the Karlovy Vary Philharmonic, Hradec Kralove Philharmonic, and at the Silesian State Opera in the Czech Republic. In 2003, Michael was awarded First Prize at the Vakhtang Jordania International Conducting Competition in Ukraine. In the United States, Michael has conducted the Midwest Lyric Opera's production of *Die Entführung aus dem Serail*, the Winter Opera St. Louis's productions of *The Mikado* and *Faust*, and the University City Symphony Orchestra's concert production of

*Bluebeards Castle*. He has served on the faculty of the Conductors Guild's Conducting Workshops for String Educators and as a guest lecturer in conducting at the Moores School of Music, University of Houston. He served for six years on the board of the Conductors Guild and currently serves on the board of the Illinois Council of Orchestras. Michael's major research interest is the music of Shostakovich. His analytical volume, *A Shostakovich Companion*, has been acclaimed in Gramophone and BBC Music Magazine. He has also given papers on Shostakovich's 7th Quartet, the cantata *The Execution of Stepan Razin*, the song cycle *Suite on Verses of Michelangelo Buonarroti*, and the reorchestration of Schumann's Cello Concerto.

# Presenters



Jon Ceander Mitchell

Chicago native Dr. Jon Ceander Mitchell holds the title Professor Emeritus of Music at University of Massachusetts Boston, where he served as Conductor of the Chamber Orchestra and Coordinator of Music Education for nearly a quarter of a century. He also founded and conducted the Boston Neopolitan Chamber Orchestra, a professional music ensemble. A well-known clinician on Gustav Holst, Ralph Vaughan Williams, Ludwig van Beethoven and Anton Rubinstein, he has over one hundred publications to his credit, including ten CDs with professional orchestras, and eight books.

*Now You Can Take Off Your Clothes: Vignettes of an American Conductor Lost in Translation*, a humorous autobiographical account of international adventures, both on and off the podium, is his latest published book. He was the 2019 recipient of the CODA (College Orchestra Directors Association) Lifetime Achievement Award and currently serves on the boards of the International Conductors Guild and IGEB. He has stayed busy since retirement with guest conducting, composing, arranging, and other interests such as travel, genealogy and coin collecting. His chamber opera *Mary Anning: Fossil Hunter* was premiered professionally this past June.



Rebecca Nederhiser

Dr. Rebecca Nederhiser is a passionate conductor, scholar, music educator, and oboist. She currently conducts the Wartburg Community Symphony; leads the Kammerstreicher string ensemble; and teaches music theory, oboe, and conducting at Wartburg College in Waverly, Iowa. In her short time at Wartburg, Nederhiser has created community engaging traditions, including an inaugural string camp, the formation of the St. George String Quartet, and collaborations/clinics with national composers and artists including the Neave Trio, Reena Esmail, Jocelyn Hagen, and Tim Brown from Clare College. Most recently she embarked on a three week tour with Kammerstreicher to Austria, Croatia, Slovenia, England, and Germany performing in prestigious halls across Europe, including the St. Stephen's Cathedral. Through Trace Chamber Society, Nederhiser has pursued research of Schönberg's Society for

Private Musical Performances and their chamber arrangement methodology. This has included highlighting the work of modern-day arrangers Iain Farrington and Peter Stangel. Most recently, Nederhiser traveled to Vienna to celebrate Arnold Schönberg's 150th anniversary, continuing this research at the Arnold Schönberg Center. Her passion for women composers has also taken her to the Royal College of Music in London, investigating the unpublished manuscripts of composer and conductor Avril Coleridge-Taylor. Most recently, Nederhiser earned 3rd place in the 2023 American Prize competition for the Vytautas Marijosius Memorial Award in Orchestral Programming for her 2023 "Music Takes Flight" concert, featuring the ground-breaking debut of Jocelyn Hagen's *Messages from Everywhere*.



# Presenters



Nick Palmer

Maestro Palmer is Music Director of both the North Charleston Pops (SC), where he is starting his 10th season, and the Altoona Symphony (PA), where he has had a 4 decade association. Nick has been the conductor of the Evenings Under the Stars Orchestra (MA) concerts since the festival's inception in 1997. Nick was a recipient of the Helen M. Thompson Award from the League of American Orchestras. He has had an extensive recording career including recent recordings with the London Philharmonic at the Abbey Road Studios which have garnered several Gramophone and Billboard awards. Nick has won rave reviews with the Detroit Symphony, Nashville Symphony, Jacksonville Symphony, Santa Barbara Symphony, Tucson Symphony, Boulder Philharmonic, Virginia Symphony, Chicago Sinfonietta, Louisville Orchestra, Naples Philharmonic, Salt Lake Symphony, Huntsville Symphony, Greenville Symphony and other orchestras across the nation. Nick has also been a frequent guest conductor for the Springfield (MA) Symphony during the past decade. As a guest conductor in Europe, Mexico and Latin America, Palmer has led the Europa Philharmonie, Czech Radio Orchestra,

San Remo Symphony, West Bohemia Symphony, Sophia Symphony, Milano Classico Orchestra, Lausanne Symphony, the OSSLA and Monterrey Symphony in Mexico, National Orchestra of Bolivia and the Medellin Symphony in Columbia. A native of Hingham, Dr. Palmer graduated cum laude from Harvard University and received his Masters and Doctoral degrees in Orchestral Conducting from the New England Conservatory of Music and the University of Iowa, respectively. He also studied at the Juilliard School, Pierre Monteux Domaine School, Aspen Music School, the Festival at Sandpoint, and the Accademia Chigiana in Italy, where he was a student of Franco Ferrara and Carlo Maria Giulini.



Greg Peterson

Greg Peterson is an ARIA award-winning musician, currently serving as a Band Officer in the Australian Army. Greg's journey as a conductor began in 2003 with the Australian Wind Orchestra. Since then, further study has been completed with leading educators throughout Australia, Asia, Europe, and North America. Of note, professional development opportunities have seen Greg engage with ensembles such as The United States Army Band "Pershing's Own," The "President's Own" United States Marine Band, The United States Air Force Band of the Midwest; and at institutions which have included the Juilliard School, and the Eastman School of Music. Conducting highlights have included appearances with the Australian Army Band, the Tokyo Sinfonia, the Heidelberg Wind Ensemble, the Royal Australian Air Force Band, the Berlin Sinfonietta, the London Serenata, the Military Band of Upper Austria, the

Adelaide Wind Orchestra, and Kensington & Norwood Brass. Greg is an advocate for the creation of new works by diverse composers. To date, he has given the world premiere of eleven works, some of which have enjoyed repeat performances around the world. As an arranger, Greg's charts have been performed in the presence of deployed troops, national TV audiences, and world leaders. Greg's compositions are regularly performed by talented studio musicians and professional symphony orchestras all over the world. Of note, his original musical,

# Presenters

“Pioneers,” received interest from Tony award-winning Broadway producers. As a prize-winning flutist, Greg has performed for former US President George W. Bush, and internationally at the Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo in 2012.



Toby Purser

Toby Purser's conducting is distinguished by its exceptional stylistic versatility, and a thrilling combination of passion and musical intelligence. Equally at home in symphonic, contemporary and operatic repertoire, his work also encompasses film music programmes and inter-cultural collaborations. Toby is Artistic Director of the Peace and Prosperity Trust which supports charitable projects for young artists in the Middle East.

Head of Conducting at London's Royal College of Music, he is also recognised as a leading pedagogue and mentor in the conducting community. He launched 'Conductors in Isolation' during the Covid Pandemic, an online forum which now has over 1,800 members worldwide.

He has received guest invitations from UK orchestras including Philharmonia, Royal Philharmonic Orchestra, Royal Liverpool Philharmonic, and London Concert Orchestra, amongst many others. He founded the Orion Orchestra in 2005, and remains their Principal Guest Conductor.

For Raymond Gubbay Ltd, he regularly conducts Christmas at the Movies, Zimmer vs Williams, and The Music of the Lord of the Rings and Beyond at all the leading UK concert venues. Recent international work has included his debut in China with the Chengdu Symphony Orchestra, in Mexico with the Orquesta Filarmonica de Sonora, and the Kenyan premier of Beethoven Symphony No.9 with the Nairobi Symphony Orchestra. He also conducted the Mendelssohn Violin Concerto with Maxim Vengerov for a public masterclass and concert at the RCM, and recorded the songs of Ernest Kaye with the Britten Sinfonia.

As well as invitations from English National Opera and Opéra National de Paris, other recent work has also included the UK première of Jake Heggie's Three Decembers for Opera della Luna; Belle Lurette for New Sussex Opera; and a second CD, Passione, with the Royal Liverpool Philharmonic and tenor Jesús León.

His operatic collaborations have been nominated for an Olivier Award (Best New Opera Production - Britten The Turn of the Screw with ENO/Regent's Park Open Air Theatre) and an International Opera Award (Best Rediscovered Work - Stanford The Travelling Companion with New Sussex Opera).

In 2019 he was invited to be musical director of the Vienna Opera Festival and Academy, conducting performances at the Vienna Musikverein. He is music director of New Sussex Opera, with whom he conducted Stanford's The Travelling Companion, Offenbach's La Belle Helène and two further Offenbach rarities: The Princess of Trebizonde and Belle Lurette. Next season will see the UK premiere of Saint-Saëns' first opera, The Silver Bell.

As principal guest conductor for Opera della Luna, he has conducted productions including The Daughter of the Regiment, Orpheus in the Underworld, and Johann Strauss's The Queen's Lace Handkerchief. He has also conducted La Bohème, Fidelio and Hänsel und Gretel for Lyric Opera, Ireland, and the world premiere of A Feast in the Time of Plague for Grange Park Opera

# Presenters



Lauren Reynolds

Lauren Reynolds is Associate Professor of Music, Director of Concert Bands, and Associate Director for Undergraduate Studies at the University of Delaware School of Music, where she serves as conductor of the University of Delaware Wind Ensemble and teaches undergraduate and graduate courses in conducting and wind literature. She received her Bachelor of Music degree in Music Education and Master of Music degree in Conducting from the University of Delaware, and her Doctor of Musical Arts degree in Wind Conducting, cognate in Flute Performance, from the University of Cincinnati College-Conservatory of Music. Dr. Reynolds has conducted ensembles from the middle school through professional

levels and has served as an adjudicator and clinician throughout the United States. Under her leadership, the University of Delaware Wind Ensemble has participated and led in the commissioning of numerous works for winds and won second place in the 2021 American Prize for Band/Wind Ensemble Performance College/University Division. Their 2019 tour of Spain culminated in an invited performance at the annual Úbeda Festival of Music and Dance, and they were featured performers at the 2020 and 2024 CBDNA Eastern Division Conferences. In 2022 the ensemble was selected to perform at the World Association of Symphonic Bands and Ensembles (WASBE) Conference in Prague. Dr. Reynolds is a past president of the Eastern Division of the College Band Directors National Association (CBDNA). She resides in Maryland with her husband, a professional bassoonist, and her two children.



Bernd Ruf

Bernd Ruf (60), a pioneer of classical Crossover, has been conducting and conceiving projects that bridge classical and popular music styles for three decades. His work is a testament to his commitment to promoting cultural exchange, as he seeks connections and understanding between and with musicians from different cultural backgrounds. He has developed his program series, Crossover Symphonies, which features special orchestral programs celebrating diversity with African, Asian, and Latin American musicians as well as jazz and rock musicians. His collaborations include jazz

productions with Paquito D’Rivera, Randy Brecker, and Joe Lovano, symphonic projects with Jon Lord (Deep Purple), Roger Hodgson (Supertramp), Gary Brooker (Procol Harum), Ian Anderson (Jethro Tull) and world music productions with Patrick Bebey (Cameroon), bandoneon master Raúl Jaurena (Uruguay). Under Bernd Ruf’s leadership, the German Pops Orchestra he founded is celebrating its 25th anniversary. The orchestra specializes in playing and recording popular music styles. In addition to the Grammy nomination in 2001 and other national record awards, the orchestra won the prestigious Golden Melody Award in Taiwan in 2016 for ‘Winter Endless Album’ with the top Taiwanese band Sodagreen. Bernd Ruf has directed and conducted the “Bridges to Classics” concert series at the Handel Festival in Halle since 2003 and the annual Saxony-Anhalt Film Music Days since 2008. The Staatskapelle Halle, with which Bernd Ruf has been a regular guest conductor for 25 years, performs at both concert series. Prof. Bernd Ruf has taught at the Lübeck University of Music since 2004 and heads the Department of Popular Music, Jazz, and World Music. For information, see: [www.berndruf.de](http://www.berndruf.de)

# Presenters



Hildegard Schön

Hildegard Schön is one of the most successful leadership and team-building trainers in the Germanspeaking world. She has been leading teams to joint success for more than two decades and has worked with employees of companies such as GEMA and the Süddeutsche Zeitung.

As a conductor, her career has taken her to the world's best orchestras, where she has worked with musicians from the Bavarian Radio Symphony Orchestra and the Berlin Philharmonic Orchestra on masterpieces of orchestral music.

She has also passed on her knowledge as a professor and lecturer, including at such renowned institutions as the Ludwig Maximilian University in Munich and the Cologne University of Music and Dance.

In her coaching, managers, trainers, coaches and, above all, musicians find themselves inspired and nurtured by her energy. She passes on her knowledge of the music business to other musicians and, with her signature program "ConductingLeadership", brings amateurs to the conductor's podium and thus into their leadership role.



Carolyn Watson

Carolyn Watson is Principal Guest Conductor of the Kansas City Chamber Orchestra, Music Director of the La Porte County Symphony Orchestra in Indiana and Director of Orchestras at the University of Illinois. Originally from Australia, she has been based in the United States since 2013 and has led performances with Amarillo Opera, Austin Symphony, Cape Symphony, Catskill Symphony, Columbus Indiana Philharmonic, Dallas Opera, Des Moines Metro Opera, Detroit Symphony Civic Orchestra, Kansas City Ballet, Lyric Opera of Kansas City, South Bend Symphony, St. Joseph Symphony, Traverse Symphony Orchestra, Tulsa Opera and World Youth Symphony Orchestra. A major prizewinner at the 2012 Emmerich Kálmán International Operetta Conducting Competition in Budapest, notable European credits include *Infektion!*, a festival of

modern theatre celebrating the works of John Cage at the Staatsoper Berlin and conducting musicians of the Berlin Philharmonic in *Interaktion*. Additional international conducting credits include the Brandenburger Symphoniker, BBC Concert Orchestra, Budapest Operetta Theatre, Bulgarian State Opera Bourgas, Duna Szimfonikus Budapest, North Czech Philharmonic Orchestra, Kammerphilharmonie Graz, Kodály Philharmonia Debrecen, Mihail Jora Philharmonic Romania, Savaria Symphony Orchestra, Scottish Chamber Orchestra, and in Russia, the St. Petersburg Chamber Philharmonic. In Australia she has worked with the Barrier Reef Orchestra, Darwin Symphony, Sydney Philharmonia Choirs, Melbourne Youth Orchestra, Monash Academy Orchestra, Sydney Symphony, Tasmania Discovery Orchestra and Willoughby Symphony. Carolyn was a Fellow of the American Academy of Conducting at the Aspen Music Festival where she studied with David Zinman, and has participated in master classes with Marin Alsop, Peter Eötvös, Yoel Levi, Martyn Brabbins and Alex Polishchuk. She holds a PhD in Performance (Conducting) from the University of Sydney. [www.carolyn-watson.com](http://www.carolyn-watson.com)

# Presenters



Mark Wigglesworth

Mark Wigglesworth is recognised internationally for his masterly interpretations both in the opera house and in the concert hall, highly detailed performances that combine a finely considered architectural structure with great sophistication and rare beauty. As a highly respected conductor he has forged many enduring relationships with orchestras and opera companies across the world, conducting repertoire ranging from Mozart to Boulez.

Highlights have included performances with the Berlin Philharmonic, Royal Concertgebouw, London Symphony, Boston Symphony, New York Philharmonic, Philadelphia Orchestra, Chicago Symphony, Los Angeles Philharmonic, Cleveland

Orchestra, and Tokyo Symphony. Recordings include a critically acclaimed cycle of the Shostakovich Symphonies with the BBC National Orchestra of Wales and the Netherlands Radio Philharmonic, Mahler's Sixth and Tenth Symphonies with the Melbourne Symphony, a disc of English music with the Sydney Symphony, Britten's Peter Grimes with Glyndebourne, and the Brahms Piano Concertos with Stephen Hough.

In opera, Wigglesworth has enjoyed long relationships with The Royal Opera House, Covent Garden (Die Meistersinger von Nürnberg, Rise and Fall of Mahagonny, From the House of the Dead, La Clemenza di Tito, Hansel and Gretel) and English National Opera (Lady Macbeth of Mtsensk, Così fan Tutti, Falstaff, Katya Kabanova, Parsifal, Force of Destiny, Magic Flute, Jenufa, Don Giovanni, Lulu) and operatic engagements elsewhere include The Metropolitan Opera, New York (The Marriage of Figaro, Orfeo) as well as at The Bavarian State Opera, Opéra National de Paris, and the Teatro Real, Madrid. In 2017 he received the Olivier Award for Outstanding Achievement in Opera.

He has written articles for The Guardian and The Independent, and made a six-part TV series for the BBC entitled Everything to Play For. His book The Silent Musician: Why Conducting Matters is published by Faber & Faber and has been translated into Spanish and Chinese. He has held positions as Associate Conductor of the BBC Symphony, Principal Guest Conductor of the Swedish Radio Symphony, Music Director of the BBC National Orchestra of Wales and English National Opera and in September 2024 becomes Chief Conductor of the Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra. In 2025 he takes up the role of Chief Conductor with the Adelaide Symphony Orchestra.



Debbie Wiseman

One of the UK's most successful female music ambassadors, Debbie is in demand as a composer and conductor.

Throughout the past 20 years, there are probably few people in the UK who have not heard a theme from one of Debbie's films or television productions. Whether it is watching Stephen Fry bring to life Oscar Wilde for the big screen, hearing the latest political commentary on a Sunday morning with Andrew Marr, or revelling

in the Tudor world of Thomas Cromwell in "Wolf Hall", Wiseman has gifted us iconic themes of beauty and passion, love and laughter.

Debbie has been nominated for two Ivor Novello Awards for WILDE and DEATH OF YUGOSLAVIA, and has won a TRIC Award for THE GOOD GUYS and an RTS Award for WARRIORS. She has been awarded the Gold Badge of Merit by the British Academy of Composers & Songwriters. In March 2016 she was awarded the Best Composer, Drama award for WOLF HALL at the RTS West Awards.

Debbie is a Visiting Professor at the Royal College of Music, and regularly gives masterclasses to schools and colleges about the art of composing music for picture. She has composed a new "Young Person's Guide to the Orchestra" called "Different Voices", and the work is now frequently performed by school and youth orchestras

# Presenters

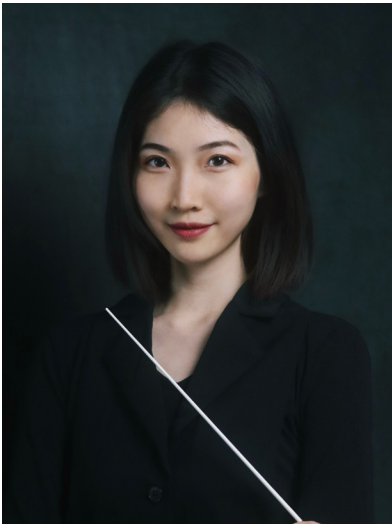
across the country. Her album of music to accompany the fairy stories of Oscar Wilde – WILDE STORIES, on the Warner Classics and Jazz label – was nominated for a Grammy Award and was then made into a trilogy of animated films for Channel 4.

In Classic FM's Top 100 Movie Music Chart, Debbie's score for WILDE is regularly voted into the top 40 by the station's listeners. A suite of her music from the film was included in the Great British Film Music Prom concert at the Albert Hall.

As well as her composing work, Debbie appears in concert halls across the country conducting her film scores, and has been a regular guest conductor at the Royal Albert Hall's annual Filmharmonic concert as well as appearing at the 2014 Cordoba International Cinema Music Festival, becoming the first female conductor in the history of the event. She has also appeared as an expert guest on the BBC broadcasts of The Proms.

Debbie is a regular presence on Radio 3 and 4. She presented a Radio 4 programme on the composer Joseph Horowitz, and in 2013 Debbie presented Scoring Father Brown for Radio 4, which followed her process of composing the score for the BBC TV series. In October 2014 Debbie was Kirsty Young's guest on Desert Island Discs, and in March 2015 Debbie presented Same Tune, Different Song on Radio 4, as well as a two-hour special of her favourite music on Radio 3's Saturday Classics.

In 2004 Debbie was honoured in the Queen's New Year's Honours list with an MBE for services to the music and film industry. She was awarded Honorary Fellowships at both colleges where she studied, Trinity College of Music and the Guildhall School of Music and Drama, and an Honorary Doctorate at the University of Sussex. The CD album of Debbie's original score for the acclaimed BBC series, Wolf Hall, entered the UK's Classic FM chart at Number 1.



Yajie Ye

Yajie Ye is a London-based Chinese conductor and a PhD researcher at King's College London, where she is supervised by Dr. Amy Blier-Carruthers. She previously completed an MPhil in conducting practice under the guidance of Prof. John Butt at the University of Glasgow. A former conducting student of Adrian Partington, Yajie has been recognized with conducting scholarships from the Divertimento Ensemble in Milan and the Mostly Modern Festival in New York, both awarded in 2024. That same year, she won Second Prize in the Conducting Category of the Gabriel Fauré Music World Competition. Yajie's work as a conductor has taken her across Europe and beyond. In 2024, she was selected for the Young Conductor's Scheme Workshop, where she collaborated with the Crouch End Festival Chorus. She also conducted the final concert in Opéra de Baugé's conducting competition. The previous year, her talents were recognized with a conducting fellowship at the

Cortona Sessions for New Music in Italy.

Yajie's conducting experience spans a wide range of ensembles, including the American Modern Ensemble, Hard Rain Soloist Ensemble, NEW Sinfonia, Royal Northern College of Music Chamber Orchestra, Derbyshire City & County Youth Wind Band, and the Royal Welsh College of Music Chamber Choir. Her work demonstrates versatility across orchestral and choral settings, as well as classical and contemporary repertoire.

Beyond her conducting, Yajie is an active researcher, presenting her work at conferences such as EPARM in Thailand, the RMA/BFE Research Students' Conference in Cambridge, the Twelfth Biennial International Conference on Music Since 1900 in Birmingham, Sphere of Singing in Glasgow, and the UNC-KCL Music Conference in North Carolina, U.S. As a Research Assistant, Yajie is currently contributing to the project 'The

silence that is not a rest: juggling performing and parenting' with Prof. Christina Scharff. She also previously served as an editor for the international postgraduate journal eSharp.

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## Become a published author by submitting your proposal to the **Journal of the International Conductors Guild.**

Dr. David Grandis, Editor, Journal of the International Conductors Guild, Associate Professor (Conducting), Director of Orchestras at William & Mary, Williamsburg, VA, welcomes your submission of articles and proposals relevant to the art, science, performance, and history of conducting. All genres of music, orchestra, opera, ballet, band, wind ensemble, choral, are acceptable.

The initial process for article submission involves a written 100-word abstract of the full manuscript, and submitting the abstract using a form on [www.internationalconductorsguild.org](http://www.internationalconductorsguild.org). You may submit an article or proposal abstract at any time.

If you have a specific question regarding your 100-word abstract, please contact our Editor, Dr. David Grandis - [journal@internationalconductorsguild.org](mailto:journal@internationalconductorsguild.org)

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## International Conductors Guild 2024 Donor List

The International Conductors Guild would like to give our sincere thanks to the following members and individuals who have provided generous financial support to the ICG during the 2024 fiscal year. If you would like to become an International Conductors Guild donor, please view our DONATE page on our website, or talk with one of our Board Directors, or Jan Wilson at [guild@internationalconductorsguild.org](mailto:guild@internationalconductorsguild.org).

### **\$1000 and up donations**

Dr. John Farrer  
Dr. Claire Fox Hillard  
Mr. Peter Stafford Wilson  
Prof. A. Scott Wood

Dr. Dan Perttu  
Dr. Lucas Richman  
Dr. Peter Rubardt  
Dr. Julie Sorensen  
Ms. Jan Wilson

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Dr. Douglas Anderson  
Mr. Francesco Attardi Anselm  
Ms. Gracie Carrillo  
Dr. Peter Cokkinias  
Mr. Marc David  
Dr. Michael Griffith  
Ms. Madeleine Krick  
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Mr. James Villani  
Ms. Nan Washburn  
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Dr. Matthew Aubin  
Ms JoAnn Falletta  
Dr. Noreen Green  
Mr. Hector Guzman  
Mr. Lanfranco Marcelletti  
Dr. Philip Morehead  
Mr. Gerry Stephens  
Mr. Phillip Williams  
Mr. Ranson Wilson

# International Conductors Guild Mentorship Program

The International Conductors Guild Mentorship Program is one of the most important organizational benefits we offer. And, let's face it, all of us, at some point in our career or lifetime, need to be able to talk with someone, confidentially, to answer, assist, or guide us on our path. Guild Mentors act as a confidential resource for member conductors who want to work with experienced conductor mentors/colleagues for advice and guidance in their music careers. Guild Mentors are a special group of conductors who bring a wealth of experience and knowledge, both on and off the podium, to the Mentorship program.

International Conductors Guild Mentoring Committee Co-Chair, Professor Larry Isaacson, and Co-Chair, Mr. Peter Stafford Wilson, will review all mentorship requests and you will be contacted regarding a mentor. Below are a range of possible topics for ICG Mentors to address, however all topics will be considered:

- conductor training - Guild workshops, graduate schools, who, what, where, and how,
- musical scholarship - concerns or questions of a particular score or work
- professional and academic career development -early, mid -, late
- orchestra, opera, ballet, chorus, wind ensemble, jazz, pops, etc.
- interdisciplinary concerns - see above,
- women conductor topics
- board of directors issues
- administration issues - budgeting, personnel, staff, etc.
- DEI concerns
- building community support repertoire and program building
- diverse programming
- fundraising
- ensemble building
- preparing for auditions/interviews
- acoustics
- youth orchestras
- community orchestras
- education concerts
- technique - baton, rehearsal, etc.
- musician conflict resolution
- management

If you would like to work with a mentor at the London Conference, please contact us at [mentor@internationalconductorsguild.org](mailto:mentor@internationalconductorsguild.org) and we will work to connect you with a fantastic mentoring partner. Sincere thanks and appreciation are due to all ICG Mentors who provide this valuable and necessary benefit to all ICG members. Thank you!

## **Mentors:**

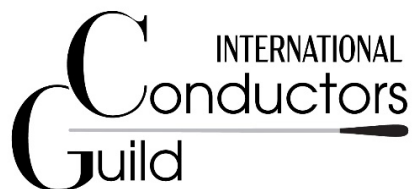
Christopher Blair  
Emily Freeman Brown  
Michael Charry  
Peter Cokkinias  
Arthur Fagen  
JoAnn Falletta  
Harvey Felder  
Victoria Gau  
Lawrence Golan  
Larry Isaacson

Sasha Mäkilä  
Jeffery Meyer  
Harold Rosenbaum  
Dominique Royem  
Neal Stulberg  
Markand Thakar  
Carl Topilow  
Angel Velez  
Jan Wilson  
Peter Stafford Wilson  
Diane Wittry  
Scott Woodward

## **Additional Mentors for the 2025 London Conference:**

Edward Cumming  
Jonathan McPhee  
Thomas Gamboa  
Carolyn Watson





...Advancing the Art and Profession of Conducting

**International Conductors Guild  
Annual Membership Meeting**

Saturday, January 4, 2025 Time: 5:10-pm – 5:40pm  
Royal College of Music, Prince Consort Road, London, UK  
International Conductors Guild Conference

**AGENDA**

**I. 2024 Annual Membership Meeting Minutes**

**II. Reports**

A. **President's Report** – Dr. Claire Fox Hillard

B. **Treasurer's Report** – Dr. Robert Whalen

C. **Programs and Events:**

**Conference** – Ms. Jan Wilson

**Workshops/Meetings** – Ms. Jan Wilson

**Awards** – Dr. Alex Zacharella

D. **External Relations:**

**Membership** – Dr. Scott Woodard and Dr. Dominique Royem, Co-Chairs

**Mentorship** - Mr. Larry Isaacson and Mr. Peter Stafford Wilson, Co-Chairs

**Nominating** – Dr. Scott Woodard and Dr. Anna Binneweg, Co-Chairs

1. **Resignations Received with regret:**

Rufus Jones

Wilbur Lin

2. **Board Members required to rotate off the Board:**

John Koshak – has served 3 consecutive, 2-year terms

Lucas Richman – has served 3 consecutive 2-year terms

Ian Passmore – has served 3 consecutive 2-year terms

John Gingrich – has served 3 consecutive 2-year terms

3. **2025 ICG Officers:**

Claire Fox Hillard – President

Christopher Blair - Vice-President

Julie Sorensen – Secretary

Scott Woodard – Treasurer

Julius Williams - Immediate Past-President *ex officio*

John Farrer - Emeritus Past-President *ex officio*

4. **Recommended New Board Members:**

Heather Buchman

Lanfranco Marcelletti, Jr.

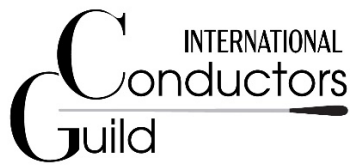
Michael Mishra

Robert Trocina

III. Old Business

IV. New Business

V. Adjourn



**International Conductors Guild  
Annual Membership Meeting  
January 6, 2024  
Lincoln Center, New York, New York  
ICG conference**

**Members in attendance:**

Claire Fox Hillard, Julius Williams, Julie Sorensen, Jan Wilson, Robert Whalen, Scott Wood, Victoria Gau, Thomas Gamboa, Peter Cokkinias, Mark Bailey, Michael Griffith, Cynthia Katsarelis, Peter Stafford Wilson, Elizabeth Hastings, Robert Baldwin, Jakob Gaeda, John Gingrich, Charles Prince, Lucas Richman, Noreen Green, Raul Munguia, Eleanor (Nell) Flanders, Libi Lebel, Richard Heinzle, Ashley Walchli, John Farrer, Dominique Royem, Scott Jackson, Jon Ermon, Shutong Li, Scott Woodard, Meijun Chen, Joanna Ng, Giovanni Briguente, Francesco Attarri, John Welsh, Joyce Mott

**Called to Order:** 3:15pm EDT – President Claire Fox Hillard

**Presidents Report: Claire Fox Hillard**

- A. President Hillard welcomed everyone to the meeting. We are moving into the 50<sup>th</sup> year of the organization.  
A strategic plan is in the works and different companies that may be able to help us with our strategic plan are being explored. Members of the Guild will also be involved in shaping the strategic plan.
- B. We are connecting with conducting organizations around the world and finding ways to co- work together.
- C. As we are moving, we need to focus on a major membership initiative.
  - a. We need to get our message out and invite and encourage people to join the Guild.

**Treasurers Report: Robert Whalen**

- A. Reminded everyone that the fiscal year is a calendar year
- B. Our overall trend is very healthy
  - a. \$47,907 in conference revenue and \$1,250 in donations
  - b. \$10,000 rent and \$15,000 for tech
    - i. Should be noted with sincere gratitude that President Claire Fox Hillard found donors to offset the cost of rent for the conference and Jan Wilson was able to get a discount from Lincoln Center.
  - c. \$49,278 – current bank balance
  - d. \$8,700 – Vanguard Savings
  - e. Additional funding from Gordon Peters will be put into savings (approx. \$7,000)
  - f. \$13,000 revenue still owed from the UCLA workshop.
- C. Overall, very healthy fiscal report.

**Secretary Report: Julie Sorensen**

- A. Minutes from previous Annual Membership Meeting held in January 2023 were presented and unanimously approved.

### **Programs and Events: Claire Fox Hillard**

- A. President Hillard excused conference chair Carlos Brown who had to leave due to inclement weather. He thanked him for his work on the success of the conference.
- B. The current conference committee will continue to meet as a committee for next year's conference.
  - a. It is the goal of the committee to have the conference in London England in 2025. This will be held at the Royal College of Music
  - b. The committee will also be looking ahead to conference sites for both 2026 and 2027
  - c. Dates will be announced as soon as they are finalized. Beginning of January is typical timeframe for the ICG Conference.
- C. Again, President Hillard thanked Carlos Brown and the conference committee for their work on the conference and for its success.

### **Workshops: Jan Wilson**

- A. Workshops are going well. Several are on the books for the upcoming year.
  - a. Fort Wayne Philharmonic workshop will be in the second week of March, this is hosted by ICG member, Andrew Constantine, and Ennio Nicotra
  - b. Windsor Ontario Orchestra Education concert workshop will also be held in March and hosted by ICG member, Robert Franz.
  - c. Buffalo Symphony Orchestra workshop with JoAnn Faletta will be a 'only workshop held at the end of July.
    - i. There are questions as to whether or not men may audit the workshop
  - d. Other possible workshops include working with the Air Force Band as well as with the Cincinnati Pops
    - i. There is a workshop committee in place, and they continue to do good work

### **Awards: Jan Wilson**

- A. This committee is seeking a new chair
- B. Awards include the Max Rudolf and the Theodore Thomas awards
- C. We are interested in developing new awards and scholarships
- D. President Hillard thanked Jon Mitchell for his service as the past chair of this committee

### **Membership: Jan Wilson**

- A. Please spread the word and encourage people to join the Guild
  - a. Some of the benefits of membership include mentorships and workshops

### **Nominating Committee: Scott Woodard**

- A. Reminders: members serve 2 year terms and up to 3 consecutive 2-year terms
  - a. These terms are found in the booklet and on the website

- B. Those who have resigned with regret –

Mercedes Diaz Garcia

- C. 2024 International Conductors Guild Executive Committee Officers -

Dr. Claire Fox Hillard – President  
Mr. Christopher Blair – Vice President  
Dr. Julie Sorensen – Secretary  
Dr. Robert Whalen – Treasurer  
Dr. Julius Williams – Immediate Past President  
Dr. John Farrer – Emeritus Past President

D. Members who are eligible for a 3<sup>rd</sup>, two-year term –

Stephen Czarkowski  
John Gingrich  
Everett McCorvey

E. Recommended new ICG Board members whose names are in nomination -

Jessica Bejarano  
Carlos Brown  
Dan Perttu  
Peter Stafford Wilson

- a. All new members were voted on and unanimously approved at the Sept. 2023 Board of Director's meeting.
- b. Report submitted and attached

**Mentorship Committee: Larry Isaacson**

A. Mentorship is up and running and has been incredibly successful at the conference

**Old Business**

A. No old business

**New Business**

- A. Alyce Mott – publishing Viktor Herbert
  - a. Possible orchestra opportunity, archival recording, looking for an orchestra to record. Interested parties can contact Alyce mott.

**Motion to Adjourn: 3:42 pm EDT – Michael Griffith – All Seconded**

Respectfully submitted  
Julie Sorensen  
Secretary





Advancing the Art and the Profession of Conducting

## Theodore Thomas Award

The Theodore Thomas Award is presented biennially to a conductor in recognition of outstanding achievement as a conductor and extraordinary service to one's colleagues in advancing the art and science of conducting, reflecting honor upon our profession.

\*Claudio Abbado  
\*Maurice Abravanel  
Marin Alsop  
\*Leon Barzin  
\*Leonard Bernstein  
\*Pierre Boulez  
Michael Charry  
\*Sir Colin Davis

\*Frederick Fennell  
\*Bernard Haitink  
\*Margaret Hillis  
\*James Levine  
\*Kurt Masur  
Zubin Mehta  
Sir Simon Rattle  
\*Max Rudolf

\*Robert Shaw  
Leonard Slatkin  
Esa-Pekka Salonen  
\*Sir Georg Solti  
Michael Tilson Thomas  
\*David Zinman

## Max Rudolf Award

The Max Rudolf Award is presented biennially in recognition of outstanding achievement as a conductor and pedagogue, and significant service to the profession in the realms of scholarship, advocacy and/or ensemble building. This award was established by the Conductors Guild in 1997 in memory of Max Rudolf – a longtime supporter of the Guild, conducting pedagogue and scholar.

Herbert Blomstedt  
\*David M. Epstein  
John Farrer  
\*Donald Hunsberger  
\*Daniel Lewis  
\*Gustav Meier  
\*Otto-Werner Mueller

\*Larry Rachleff  
Helmuth Rilling  
\*Gunther Schuller  
\*Jonathan Sternberg  
\*Paul Vermel  
Joann Falletta

## Thelma A. Robinson Award

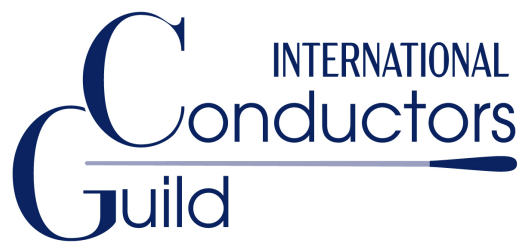
The Thelma A. Robinson Award is a scholarship/award sponsored by the National Federation of Music Clubs and presented biennially to an outstanding participant from the preceding two seasons of Conductors Guild conductor training workshops for career-related expenses or advanced conducting study.

Beatrice Jona Affron  
Eric Bell  
Miriam Burns  
Kevin Gerald  
Carolyn Kuan

Katherine Kilburn  
Matilda Hofman  
Issac Hutton  
Octavio Más-Arocas  
Jamie Reeves

Laura Rexroth  
Annunziata Tomaro  
Robert Whalen  
Steven Martyn Zike

\*In Memoriam



## Advancing the Art and the Profession of Conducting

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Website: [www.internationalconductorsguild.org](http://www.internationalconductorsguild.org)

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# Board of Directors

Dr. Claire Fox Hillard, President

Mr. Christopher Blair, Vice President

Dr. Julie Sorensen, Secretary

Dr. Robert Whalen, Treasurer

Dr. Julius Williams, Immediate Past President

Dr. John Farrer, Emeritus Past President

Dr. Anna Binneweg

Dr. Peter Cokkinias

Dr. Edward Cumming

Dr. Stephen Czarkowski

Dr. Thomas Gamboa

Mr. John Gingrich

Mr. Lawrence Isaacson

Dr. Rufus Jones, Jr.

Ms. Cynthia Katsarelis

Dr. John Koshak

Dr. Wilbur Lin

Dr. Sasha Mäkilä

Dr. Everett McCorvey

Dr. Jon C. Mitchell

Dr. Ian Passmore

Mr. Charles Prince

Mr. Lucas Richman

Dr. A. Scott Wood

Dr. Scott Woodard

Dr. David Grandis\* – Editor, Journal of the International Conductors Guild

Dr. Dominique Royem, Media and Conference Consultant

Ms. Jan Wilson\* – Executive Director

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# Advisory Council

James Allen Anderson

+Pierre Boulez

Emily Freeman Brown

Michael Charry

Sandra Dackow

+Harold Farberman

John Farrer

Adrian Gnam

Michael Griffith

Gordon Johnson

Samuel Jones

Tonu Kalam

Wes Kenney

+Daniel Lewis

Larry Newland

Harlan D. Parker

Donald Portnoy

Barbara Schubert

+Gunther Schuller

Julius William

\*Ex-Officio

+In Memoriam

# *In Memoriam*

*“The key to the mystery of a great artist is that for reasons unknown, he will give away his energies and his life just to make sure that one note follows another... and leaves us with the feeling that something is right in the world.”*

The International Conductors Guild mourns the passing of several great colleagues and artists this past year:



Péter Eötvös



Sir Andrew Davis



Leif Segerstam



Robert Boudreau



Miguel Angel Gomez-Martinez



Dr. Douglas E. Meyer



Rafael Kubelik



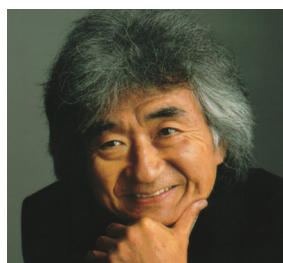
Viljar Puu Weimann



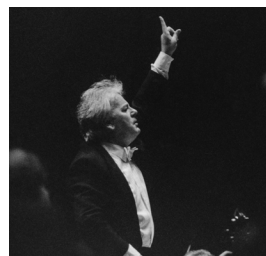
Peter Tiboris




Donald Hunsberger



Seiji Ozawa



James Loughran



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