

## CONDUCTOR

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### Nazanin Aghakhani

After professional studies of classical piano at the State Conservatory in Vienna, winning several national competitions as a young soloist and giving piano-recitals, Nazanin Aghakhani continued as a conductor at the University of Music and performing Arts in Vienna, at the Royal Academy of Music in Stockholm and finally at the Sibelius Academy in Helsinki where she took her Master's Degree in opera and symphonic conducting (with distinction) at the Sibelius Academy in 2008. Future engagements within season 2016/17 will include her debut with the Royal Philharmonic Stockholm.



### Sergio Alapont

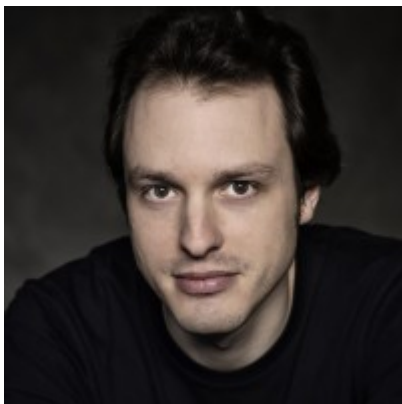
Winner as Best Conductor in Italy 2016 of the Opera Awards GBOPERA, and winner of the II Competition for Conductors City of Granada Orchestra, Sergio Alapont is one of the leading conductors of his generation, Resident Conductor of Suzhou Symphony Orchestra in China, Music Director of Orizzonti Festival in Italy, Principal Conductor of Orquesta Manuel de Falla and Artistic Director of Opera Benicàssim. Future engagements for Mr. Alapont include Orchestra Giuseppe Verdi di Milano, Orchestra del Maggio Musicale Fiorentino, Orchestra di Padova e del Veneto, Orchestra della Toscana, Suzhou Symphony Orchestra (China), Opening Season Gala Concert with Haifa Symphony Orchestra (Israel), Norma at the Teatro Comunale di Ferrara, La Medium and Madama Butterfly at the Orizzonti Festival 2017, Lucia di Lammermoor at the Teatro Comunale di Treviso and Teatro Comunale di Ferrara, La forza del destino at the Las Palmas Opera, Madama Butterfly at the Palau de Les Arts of Valencia, Gala Concert at the Gran Teatre del Liceu de Barcelona or Gala Concert with the Orquesta Sinfónica de Madrid at the Teatro Real de Madrid

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## Conrad van Alphen

Conrad van Alphen is known as much for entrepreneurial spirit and depth of preparation as he is for performances that combine exceptional sensitivity, vision and freshness. He enjoys a particularly close association with the Russian National Orchestra and is currently an artist of the Moscow Philharmonic Society. As a guest conductor Conrad works with some of the world's most respected orchestras, such as the Montreal and Svetlanov Symphony Orchestras, the Brussels, Bogota and Moscow Philharmonics, the Bochumer Symphoniker as well as the Symphony Orchestra of the Gran Teatre del Liceu in Barcelona. Conrad works with soloists of the highest caliber. He has collaborated with Janine Jansen, Daniel Hope, Benjamin Schmid, Quirine Viersen, Ronald Brautigam, Alban Gerhardt, Simone Lamsma and Nikita Borisov-Glebsky among many others.



## Victor Aviat

Victor Aviat launched his international career as a finalist of the Nestlé and Salzburg Festival Young Conductors Award in 2014. Since then, he has won praise for a series of debuts with major orchestras including the Orchestre Philharmonique de Luxembourg, Orchestre National de Montpellier and Konzerthausorchester Berlin. Most recently, in June 2016, Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra announced Victor Aviat as their new BSO Leverhulme Young Conductor in Association.

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Anja Bihlmaier

Since the 2015/16 season, Anja Bihlmaier holds the position as Deputy Music Director at the Staatstheater Kassel. In her first season she premiered Mozart's *The Abduction from the Seraglio*, Bellini's *Norma* as well as the revivals of Tchaikovsky's *Eugene Onegin*, Verdi's *Rigoletto* and Puccini's *La Bohème*. Further to this, she was both programming and conducting two symphonic concerts. In the 2016/17 season Anja Bihlmaier will conduct the premiers of Verdi's *Luisa Miller* and Gounod's *Roméo et Juliette* at the Staatstheater Kassel. Moreover she will program and lead three symphonic concerts. Other highlights of the 2016/17 season will include concerts with Gothenburg University Symphony, Göttinger Symphonie Orchester, Bremer Philharmoniker and the Sinfonieorchester Wuppertal.



David Björkman

David enjoys ongoing relationships with all the major orchestral ensembles in Sweden, among them the Royal Stockholm Philharmonic Orchestra, the Gothenburg Symphony Orchestra and the Swedish Chamber Orchestra. He is equally at home in the theatre, and has conducted at the Royal Swedish Opera, at the Gothenburg Opera and at Malmö Opera. David has worked as a guest conductor across the Nordic countries and in Russia. He was recently appointed chief conductor of Livgardets Dragonmusikkår, the Royal Swedish Cavalry Band, in Stockholm.

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Fredrik Burstedt

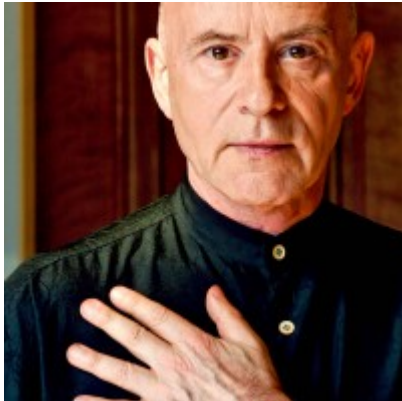
Swedish conductor and violinist - awarded the prestigious Herbert Blomstedt Prize by the Royal Swedish Academy of Music in 2012 - Fredrik Burstedt has in recent times established himself as a musician with a unique ability to capture an audience and intrigue the listener. Since 2015 Fredrik is a returning conductor of Vattnäs Opera, privately build and run by world-renowned singer Anna Larsson, and in 2017 he will return for the third year to conduct the world premiere of the opera "The War of Love". Season 2016/2017 holds numerous re-invitations in Sweden and abroad, and in addition he will make his debut at the Stockholm Opera where he will conduct Franz Lehars "Die Lustige Witwe". In 2017 Fredrik won the Swedish Grammy award for the recording of the portrait album of composer Mats Larsson Gothe with Helsingborg Symphony Orchestra and Västerås sinfonietta.



David Danzmayr

Danzmayr is Chief Conductor of the Zagreb Philharmonic Orchestra and Music Director of the ProMusica Chamber Orchestra, as well as the Artistic Advisor of the Breckenridge Music Festival. Previously, David Danzmayr served as Music Director of the Illinois Philharmonic Orchestra in Chicago. David has won prizes at some of the world's most prestigious conducting competitions, including a 2nd prize at the International Gustav Mahler Conducting Competition and prizes at the International Malko Conducting Competition.

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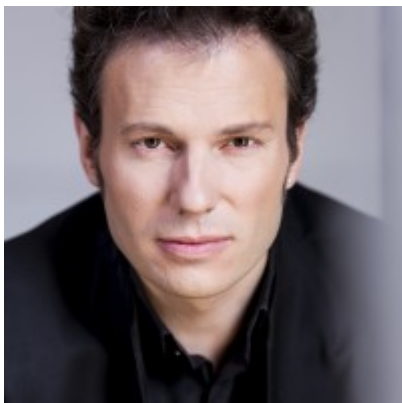
Christoph Eschenbach

In his earlier days Christoph Eschenbach, then a pianist, was in high demand worldwide by famous concert halls and orchestras. Here he met George Szell who invited him to tour with the Cleveland orchestra. In the same period Eschenbach developed a great artistic collaboration with Herbert von Karajan as well. Successful conducting studies passed in Hamburg and the influence of Szell and Karajan, the two mentors, naturally led him to initiate his carrier as a conductor, and he debuted in the USA in 1975 with the San Francisco Symphony Orchestra. Today, Eschenbach is in demand as a distinguished guest conductor with the finest orchestras and opera houses throughout the world, as well as prestigious festivals. His grand classic repertoire is ranging from J.S. Bach to music of our time and reflect his commitment to not just canonical works but also to the music of the late 20th and early 21st century.



Patrick Gallois

Patrick Gallois, a highly successful french flutist and conductor. He has a wide repertoire both as a conductor and a flutist, with a strong taste for contemporary music - and with more than 40 records with Naxos and 9 years as artistic director of Sinfonia Finlandia Jyväskylä. His conducting career has not stopped his flute playing, and he plays regularly in New York, London and Paris. This season, he will be recording the complete set of Devienne's twelve flute concertos with the Swedish Chamber Orchestra and finishing the six flutes concertos by Mercadante.



Simon Gaudenz

Simon Gaudenz is Music Director Designate of Jena Philharmonic Orchestra. During recent years he has made a name for himself particularly as an interpreter of the classical repertoire. A fresh, new approach against the background of historically informed performance practice characterizes his concerts and recordings. In keeping with this philosophy, he is currently forming and shaping the musical profile of the Hamburg Camerata and was celebrating the 30 years anniversary season of this chamber orchestra looking back on a rich performance tradition.

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## Johannes Gustavsson

Johannes Gustavsson is noted for his energy, charisma, poise and sensitivity - qualities that have put him in serious demand as a symphonic and operatic conductor across the Nordic region and beyond. He works regularly with all the major orchestras in his native Sweden including the Royal Stockholm Philharmonic, Swedish Radio Symphony and Gothenburg Symphony Orchestras. In Norway he enjoys relationships with the Oslo Philharmonic and Kristiansand Symphony Orchestras and KORR, the Norwegian Radio Orchestra. Johannes has recently conducted the Helsinki and Turku Philharmonic Orchestras in Finland and is soon to appear with the Odense and South Jutland Symphony Orchestras in Denmark.



## Lars-Thomas Holm

Since winning the Norwegian Conducting Competition in 2010, Lars-Thomas Holm has forged a distinctive career on the podiums of Nordic and International orchestras and worked closely with some of the most distinguished conductors of our time. Lars-Thomas currently holds the position of Principal Conductor and Artistic Leader at the Ålesund Symphony Orchestra, and Assistant Conductor at the world famous Bergen Philharmonic Orchestra, where he works closely with the British Chief Conductor Edward Gardner.



## Jukka Iisakkila

This fine Finnish conductor is a worthy representative of the renowned Finnish conductor's tradition. Jukka Iisakkila has conducted all leading Finnish orchestras and orchestras all over Europe. Jukka has also been artistic director of Pori Sinfonietta for two periods. Versatile with particular strength in contemporary and 20th century repertoire. Recent engagements include concerts in Germany, Denmark (Danish Radio), Sweden and Japan and opera productions in Vaasa.

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Alexander Joel

Alexander Joel's 2016/17 season starts with a new Andrea Breth production of *Manon Lescaut* for the Dutch National Opera with Eva-Maria Westbroek and the Netherlands Philharmonic Orchestra, a complete new Ring cycle at the Hessisches Staatstheater Wiesbaden, and a new production of *Simon Boccanegra* at the Vlaamse Opera in Antwerp, where he has recently been appointed Principal Guest Conductor. Over the next few years, he will conduct a number of their symphonic programmes, in addition to one new opera production a season.



Risto Joost

Still in his mid-thirties, Risto Joost is a conductor of rare experience and versatility. He has already held major artistic positions, succeeded at important competitions, issued critically acclaimed recordings and conducted some of the world's most distinguished orchestras. His repertoire stretches from baroque music to contemporary music. Risto continues as Principal Conductor at the Estonian National Opera, as Chief Conductor of the Tallinn Chamber Orchestra and as Artistic Director of the MDR Radio Choir in Leipzig.



Garrett Keast

Berlin-based conductor Garrett Keast was born in Houston and was mentored by Christoph Eschenbach at the Houston Symphony Orchestra. Highlights of Garrett Keast's 2016/2017 season included *Le Sacre de Printemps* with the Tonkünstler Orchestra of Vienna, a Haydn-Widmann program with the National Orchestra of Belgium in Brussels, and Dvorak's Ninth Symphony with the Orchestre Philharmonique de Strasbourg. Garrett Keast has conducted performances at the Leipzig Gewandhaus, Hamburg's Elbphilharmonie, the Gasteig in Munich, Berlin's Konzerthaus, Theater an der Wien and the Bastille in Paris. He continues a close relationship with the Staatsoper Hamburg.

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## Kalle Esanpoika Kuusava

Kalle Kuusava cemented his position as a conductor-to-watch when he made his debut at the Mariinsky Theatre in St Petersburg in 2015, conducting Rimsky-Korsakov's *Maid of Pskov*. Since 2008 he has been employed as a conductor and coach at the Norwegian National Opera in Oslo. He has worked at Bayreuth as scholar of the Finnish Wagner Association and as an assistant conductor at the Zurich Opera Studio and at the Savonlinna Festival in his native Finland, where he appears annually. Kalle has worked closely with important Finnish conductors including Jukka-Pekka Saraste, Hannu Lintu and Mikko Franck, assisting the latter on performances with the Vienna Symphony Orchestra.



## Erkki Lasonpalo

A decade after he was invited to study with the Finnish conducting guru Jorma Panula, Erkki Lasonpalo is making a name for himself as a conductor who combines fluent technique with natural communicative spirit. Since 2012, Erkki has conducted most of the major orchestras in Finland. Erkki is currently Artistic Director of the Heinävesi Music Festival. Since 2016 has been Artistic Director of the Kemi City orchestra, and since 2017 he has held the position of Artistic Partner of the Mikkeli City Orchestra. He is also the artistic director of the Helsinki Sinfonietta.



## Paul Meyer

Paul Meyer is one of the world's foremost clarinetists and is increasingly sought-after as a conductor at the highest level. He regularly works with some of the great orchestras of the world, from the Royal Concertgebouw Orchestra in Amsterdam and the Orchestre de la Suisse Romande in Geneva to the Russian State Symphony Orchestra in Moscow and the NHK Symphony Orchestra in Tokyo. As a clarinetist, Paul is known as a soloist, chamber musician and teacher. Some of the most important composers in recent history have written for him. As a conductor, Paul enjoys relationships with some of the most distinguished orchestras in Europe and beyond.



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## Mateusz Moleda

Mateusz Moleda is one of the most interesting and remarkable personalities among today's young developing orchestra leaders. He has surprised his audiences and critics alike with very mature interpretations of discerning concert programs. In season 2017 / 2018 he continues his successful collaboration with the Nuremberg Symphony Orchestra, and further invitations as guest conductor lead him to France, Spain, Poland, Albania and South Korea. Over the past years conductor Marek Janowski has had a profound influence on Mateusz's artistic development by sharing his varied experiences with the young conductor. They continue their collaboration by Maestro Janowski's personal request in season 2017 / 2018 during a production of Weber's rarely performed opera Euryanthe in concert version with the Dresden Philharmonic Orchestra.



## Rafael Payare

Since winning the Malko Competition in 2012, Payare has quickly developed into one of the most sought after young conductors, with recent debuts with the Vienna Philharmonic, Munich Philharmonic, London Symphony and the Chicago Symphony at the Ravinia Festival. Other highlights includes the City of Birmingham Symphony, Rotterdam Philharmonic, Seoul Philharmonic, Oslo Philharmonic, Gothenburg Symphony and the Los Angeles and Royal Stockholm Philharmonic orchestras. 2014-15 also saw his acclaimed opera debut conducting Madame Butterfly at the Royal Swedish Opera in Stockholm.

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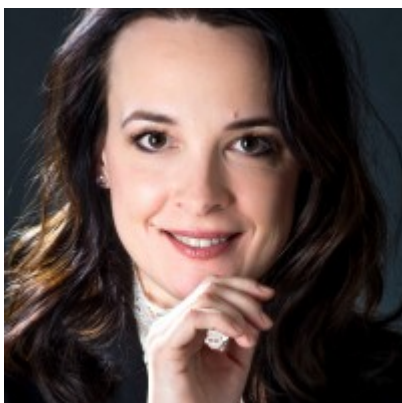
Andris Poga

Andris Poga is the 2010 winner of the Evgeny Svetlanov International Conducting Competition in Montpellier, and following the success became Assistant Conductor to Paavo Järvi at the Orchestre de Paris. In 2012 he also became Assistant Conductor of the Boston Symphony Orchestra with concerts at both the main series in Boston and at Tanglewood Festival. Now an established artist in his own right he has forthcoming engagements with orchestras in Europe and Asia, among others Gewandhaus Leipzig, Munich Philharmonic, Orchestre Philharmonique de St Petersburg, New Japan Philharmonic Orchestra (Suntory Hall), Orchestre National de France, China Philharmonic Orchestra and Bamberg Symphony Orchestra.



Kristiina Poska

Apart from her career at Komische Oper, Berlin, young Estonian Kristiina Poska is internationally in demand and has recently debuted with among others the Estonian National Symphony Orchestra, Magdeburg Phil., the Volksoper in Vienna, and the Symphonieorchester in Bern. In Denmark she took two prizes in the Malko Competition in 2012; Third Prize and Audience Prize following the final concert with Danish National Symphony Orchestra. Denmark had the pleasure of her visit again, when she conducted both Malmö Opera and Copenhagen Phil at the Copenhagen Opera Festival 2016.



Marie Rosenmir

Marie Rosenmir's unusual route to conducting via an impressive career as a professional singer has made her an operatic and orchestral leader of rare sensitivity and versatility. She has been praised for her musical charisma, diligence, vibrancy and character and most significantly for the space, breadth and detail with which her performances unfold. This season she makes her conducting debut at the Royal Swedish Opera. As a symphonic conductor Marie works with many of the leading orchestras in Sweden including the Royal Stockholm Philharmonic, the Gothenburg Symphony, the Norrköping Symphony and the Gävle Symphony Orchestras.

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Ola Rudner

Very versatile, and equally at home in the symphonic and operatic repertoire, Swedish conductor Ola Rudner has been Chief Conductor of the Tasmanian Symphony Orchestra in Australia (2001-2003), Chief Conductor of the Haydn Orchestra of Bolzano (2003-2006), and Chief Conductor of Württembergische Philharmonie in Reutlingen (2008-2016). Upcoming engagements include Osaka Symphony Orchestra, Norrköping Symphony Orchestra, Israel NK Orchestra, Orchestra Filarmonica dell Arena di Verona, Wiener Kammerorchester and returning to Aarhus Symphony Orchestra.



Jesko Sirvend

Jesko Sirvend is a 2012 and 2015 Malko prize winner. He is a regular guest conductor with the Düsseldorfer Symphoniker and the Berner Symphonieorchester, and has recently been re-invited to Zagreb Philharmonic Orchestra. Since 2009 he has been principal conductor of the Akademische Philharmonie Heidelberg. In the 2016/17 season Jesko Sirvend will give his debut with the Orchestre National de France in Paris and the Norrköping Symphony Orchestra in Sweden. His work as musical director of the “#IGNITION” series of the Düsseldorfer Symphoniker, which was awarded “European take-off Brand of the year” 2015, will go into its fourth year.



Marc Soustrot

Marc Soustrot is considered a specialist of French orchestral literature. He is also well-known for his deep involvement in contemporary music, which he has cultivated since the beginning of his career. He has been chief conductor of the Malmö Symphony Orchestra since the 2011/12 season and has led the orchestra in concerts in Sweden as well as on international tours. In addition, he has taken on the position as chief conductor of the Aarhus Symphony Orchestra from the 2015/16 season onwards.

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## Peter Szilvay

Peter Szilvay is a conductor of energy and charisma and a notable interpreter of new music. He has conducted the St Petersburg Philharmonic, the Orchestre Philharmonique de Radio France and the Royal Danish Orchestra. In Norway, Peter has worked with the KORK, the Norwegian Chamber Orchestra, the Arctic and Bergen Philharmonic Orchestras, the Trondheim and Kristiansand Symphony Orchestras, the Oslo Philharmonic and the Stavanger Symphony Orchestras. He has also conducted the Oslo, Trondheim, Bodo and Arctic Sinfoniettas. Peter is furthermore an experienced opera conductor.



## Joshua Weilerstein

Joshua Weilerstein won the Malko Competition in 2009. He is Assistant Conductor at the New York Philharmonic and was recently appointed Artistic Director Designate of the Orchestre de Chambre de Lausanne. Joshua conducts Scandinavian orchestras on a regular basis, including the Danish National Symphony Orchestra, Copenhagen Phil, Oslo Philharmonic, Finnish Radio Symphony Orchestra and Royal Stockholm Philharmonic Orchestra. In the recent season, Joshua made his debut with among others Scottish Chamber Orchestra, Deutsche Radio Philharmonie, BBC Symphony Orchestra, BBC Scottish Symphony Orchestra and Stuttgart Chamber Orchestra.



## Wolfgang Wengenroth

Wolfgang Wengenroth became Kapellmeister at the Theater für Niedersachsen Hildesheim-Hannover and from 2009-14 held this position at the Hessisches Staatstheater Wiesbaden. He has been engaged regularly at the Ruhrtriennale Festival and since 2013 also worked for the Bayreuth Festival as assistant to Kirill Petrenko. In 2016/17 he joins the Nationaltheater Mannheim as Kapellmeister. He is responsible for productions such as Aida (Verdi), The Bat (Strauss) and Rossini's Il barbiere di Siviglia. In 2017 he will conduct the Ballett Swan Lake at the Royal Swedish Opera in Stockholm.

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## Cathrine Winnes

Cathrine Winnes is a conductor of rare communicative gifts, outstanding precision and uncompromising musicianship. She is known in Norway and beyond for her work on the podium and also for her pioneering work as a broadcaster. She appeared as both conductor and presenter for the Norwegian state broadcaster NRK's Art and Regime series, examining the life and works of Dmitri Shostakovich. She was reunited with the Kristiansand Symphony Orchestra for their 2013 TV production marking the centenary of women's voting rights in Norway, uncovering lost works by female composers from the era.



## Martin Yates

Martin Yates has built a career over two decades with a broad range of repertoire and genres. He has worked as guest conductor with some of the UK's most respected orchestras, and has worked extensively in Scandinavia with orchestras such as the Gothenburg Symphony, Malmo Symphony, Bergen Philharmonic, Royal Stockholm Philharmonic, Ostgota Blasarsymfonikerna, and the Swedish Chamber Orchestra. Ballet has become a significant part of Yates' musical career and he has developed an important relationship with the Royal Ballet, Covent Garden, where he returns each season. Yates has an extremely successful relationship with the Dutton Epoch label and has recorded much symphonic repertoire.