



**LLÍRIA CITY OF MUSIC**  
INTERNATIONAL CONDUCTING COMPETITION

**LLÍRIA**  
CITY OF MUSIC

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**II INTERNATIONAL  
CONDUCTING COMPETITION**

From **17th** to **22nd** July **2023**

**INFO:**

[www.lliriacityofmusic.es](http://www.lliriacityofmusic.es)

[www.aesdo.com](http://www.aesdo.com)



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## Missive from the **Mayor**



Our city presents the second edition of the International Conducting Competition “Llíria City of Music”. From the Department of Music, and with the collaboration of the Spanish Association of Orchestra Conductors (AESDO), this competition has been organized once again, with great enthusiasm, aiming to contribute to the projection of young batons on the world scene.

The first edition, held in 2021, was already a great success, with the application of 188 candidates from 35 different countries. Throughout that week, we were able to enjoy the mastery exhibited by the 25 finalists. And for this occasion, it will be no less, since a thrilling final is expected in Llíria, which we already await with great interest, with the best conductors competing to the maximum for the award.

Due to our commitment to music, we continue to bet on this event that arises from our responsibilities as a UNESCO Creative City of Music. Through various cultural cooperation

actions in the international arena, we make room for this type of initiative.

At the centre of all of them are the professionals who devote themselves to this beautiful art that is very present in the life of Llíria. From the educational vocation that our city has always had, one of our priorities is to support and promote young people who participate in the different fields of music, as in orchestral conducting in this case.

I would like to extend our most affectionate welcome to the 25 finalist batons in the Orchestra Conducting Competition “Llíria City of Music” 2023. I hope their time in the competition serves as a springboard for their professional careers. I encourage them to enjoy their stay in our town and to get to know the musical singularity that emanates from it through its musicians and societies.

Good luck and let the music play!

**Joanma Miguel León**  
Mayor of Llíria

## Missive from the **City Councillor**



The Department of Music is proud to organize the II International Conducting Competition “Llíria City of Music” (IOCC), with the invaluable collaboration of the Spanish Association of Orchestra Conductors (AESDO). Thus, as a UNESCO Creative City of Music, we maintain our firm commitment to project the best promises of the baton worldwide and, on the other hand, we once again position Llíria internationally as a place of reference in music training.

From 17th to 22nd July, our municipality will host a total of 25 young finalist conductors under the age of 35, who will compete to take over from the Hungarian Levente Török, winner of the competition in 2021.

The great acceptance of the IOCC, in its short history, has proved again in this edition with the application of a total of 120 people, 24 female conductors and 96 male conductors, all of them with an extraordinary level.

Likewise, the international dimension that it has acquired is satisfying, since we have received applications from almost all regions of the planet. 83.5% of the applicant batons presented were from outside Spain.

In addition to the economic prizes, the competition has the special incentive of having a prestigious line-up of collaborating orchestras, to which the winner may be invited to conduct throughout the 2025/26 and 2026/27 seasons.

I want to thank the personnel of the Culture area and other municipal departments for their involvement in this event to make its organization a complete success, as well as the entities and companies that provide us with their appreciable support.

Lastly, I wish the best of luck to all the finalists in the International Orchestra Conducting Competition “Llíria City of Music” 2023, also hoping that it meets all their expectations.

**Mª José Llopis Oliver**  
City Councillor for  
Culture and Music



## Missive from the **Artistic Director**



“Music is an indispensable part of universal human knowledge.”

Zoltán Kodály, composer and pedagogue (1882-1967)

The second edition of any competition is always a double reason for celebration: the growing consolidation of a cultural project by the society for which it is intended, and the verification of a need demanded by the international community of musicians, which support and claim a special locus to demonstrate their talent.

Llíria becomes anew the ideal venue to host this biennial event of global scope, whose ultimate objective is to acclaim and support excellence in orchestral conducting, as well as to point out the value the city of Edeta, recently honoured by UNESCO as “Creative City of Music”.

As conductor and president of the Spanish Association of Orchestra Conductors (AESDO), I cannot be more satisfied with the enthusiastic acceptance of this edition, since it has allowed me to experience and prove, during the selection process of the 25 finalists, the enormous potential of more than 120 conductors from 41 countries.

Once more, my gratitude to the Llíria City Council and its Department of Culture goes beyond what is expressed in these lines: their effort and support are a tangible demonstration of their feeling for musical art and its performers.

I extend this gratitude to the entire workforce of the competition, fully involved in guaranteeing optimal development, from the months prior to the celebration to the subsequent advice, beyond the jury's verdict and prize. Of course, to the musicians of the competition's resident orchestra, whose empathy and enthusiasm for the finalist batons are the best stimulus on stage. Finally, to the fellow conductors who make up the evaluating jury, for the predicament and complexity involved in entrusting them with the arduous decision of choosing the best conduction for the competition throughout its four rounds.

I invite the citizens of Llíria, unconditional music lovers, and all lovers of good music to listen and enjoy the final concert of the second edition of the International Orchestra Conducting Competition “Llíria City of Music” 2023. Music is always a transformative experience: pleasant, therapeutic, and more necessary than ever in our lives.

**Cristóbal Soler**

## The competition: rounds and programme

The II International Conducting Competition “Llíria City of Music” seeks the best international young baton. The competition will consist of **four rounds**, which are held between Tuesday 18th and Saturday 22nd July.

The first two rounds will take place at the Conservatori Professional de Música de Llíria, and the third and fourth or final will take place at the Teatro Banda Primitiva de Llíria.

In every round the jury will assess the candidates according to the **following criteria**: expressive gestures, interpretation, sound, dynamics, articulation, pitch and balances.

### Reception. Monday 17th July

Welcome to the 25 participants and drawing of the order of participation. This will take place at the Conservatori Professional de Música de Llíria, at 19:30.

### 1st round. Tuesday 18th July

The 25 candidates will conduct a 10-minute rehearsal.  
Up to a maximum of 15 candidates go into the 2nd round.  
Piece: *Pierrot Lunaire*, by Arnold Schoenberg (Universal Edition).  
Conservatori de Llíria. All day long.

### 2nd round. Wednesday 19th July

The candidates will conduct a 15-minute rehearsal.  
Up to a maximum of 6 candidates go into the 3rd round.  
Piece: *St. Paul's Suite*, by Gustav Holst (for String Orchestra. Curwen Edition, G. Schirmer).  
Conservatori de Llíria. 17:00.

### 3rd round. Thursday 20th July

The candidates will conduct a 25-minute rehearsal.  
Three will be chosen for the final round.  
Piece: *Sinfonía n.º 49, La Pasión*, by Franz Joseph Haydn (Breitkopf Edition).  
Teatro Banda Primitiva. 17:00.

### Final round. Friday 21st and Saturday 22nd July

The three finalists will conduct a 45-minute rehearsal.  
It consists of **two parts**:  
· Full rehearsal, Friday 21st July, at 18:00.  
· Final concert and awards ceremony, Saturday 22nd July at 18:00.

#### Repertoire:

*Monologue* (chamber '23), version for chamber orchestra, by Amparo Edo (Canyamel Music).  
*Variaciones Rococó*, for cello and orchestra, by P. I. Tchaikovski (Ed. Kalmus).  
*Egmont (Obertura)* Op.84, by Ludwig van Beethoven (Ed. Breitkopf & Härtel).

## PARALLEL CONCERTS:

### 19th July. Conservatorio de Llíria. 22:30

The singers from the Centre de Perfeccionament del Palau de les Arts, Rosa Dávila (soprano), Mariana Sofía (mezzo-soprano), Alejandro Sánchez (baritone) y Carlos Reynoso (baritone), accompanied on piano by Ignacio Aparisi, will perform well-known excerpts from opera and zarzuela. You will hear famous arias and duets from *Le nozze di Figaro* or *Così fan tutte*, by Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart, as well as famous passages from *La revoltosa*, by Ruperto Chapí, by Luisa Fernanda, by Federico Moreno Torroba or *El niño judío*, by Pablo Luna, among others.

### 20th July. Conservatorio de Llíria. 22:30

Under the title “Les Arts amb Tu”, the Palau de les Arts organizes an exhaustive musical programme of chamber concerts and recitals by its artistic assets, which includes a tour throughout the Valencian territory during the months of June and July. On this occasion, we are visited by a chamber formation from the string section of its titular orchestra, the Orquestra de la Comunitat Valenciana, recognized as one of the best orchestras in Spain and one of the most important created in Europe in recent years.

The repertoire they will perform includes pieces by Respighi, Skorik, Sarasate, Grieg and Albéniz, lasting approximately one hour.

### 21st July. Teatro Unió Musical. 19:30

Youth Bands Festival ‘Ciutat de Llíria’ 2023  
There is the participation of the Banda Juvenil Unió Musical de Llíria, directed by Esteban Espinosa, and the Banda Juvenil Primitiva de Llíria, directed by Chano Silvestre.

## The Jury



Chairperson:  
**MANUEL GALDUF**

(Llíria, 1940), he began his musical studies at the Ateneo Musical y de Enseñanza Banda Primitiva de Llíria. At the Conservatorio Superior de Música y Declamación de Valencia, he obtained a degree in Oboe, Piano, Composition and Conducting. He took post-graduate courses in Conducting with the maestros Volker Wagheneim, head of the Bon Symphony, and later with Igor Markevitch, of whom he was a student and collaborator, conducting many of his pieces. He has conducted most of the Spanish orchestras: ONE, RTVE, OBC, Sinfónica de Madrid, Bilbao, Las Palmas, Seville, etc. Outside Spain: Monte Carlo Opera, Dresdner Philharmonie, Hungarian Philharmonic, French Nationale, English Chamber, Nuremberg Symphony, Miami Festival Orchestra, the orchestras of Montevideo, Turkey, Croatia, Puerto Rico, Venezuela, Japan, etc. He has recorded numerous programmes for the historical archive of RNE, RTVE, Suisse Romande of Switzerland, Radio France, Venezuela TV, NHK from Tokyo...

His wide repertoire ranges from Bach's baroque, classicism, romanticism, impressionism, culminating symphonism, with the premiere of Carl Nielsen's Symphony No. 5 in Spain, Mahler and his emblematic Symphony No. 8 at the Teatro Real, Bartók, Stravinsky... operas by Mozart, Bizet, Puccini, Verdi, Strauss, Wagner, etc. His discography includes Falla and his *La vida breve*, Manuel Palau with his opera *Maror*, Oscar Esplá and his *Sinfonía Aitana*, all the works by Joaquín Rodrigo, Amando

Blanquer and his opera *El Trionf de Tirant*, even those of the last generation, César Cano and his magnificent *Te Deum*, Andrés Valero or Francisco Coll, Carlos Fontcuberta, with his opera *White Nights*. Prestigious soloists performed under his baton such as Christian Ferrás, Isaac Stern, Igor Oistrac, Mstislav Rostropovich, Maximin Venguerov, Alicia de la Rocha, Alexis Weissenberg, Achúcarro, J. Soriano, Maria Joao Pires, Narciso Yepes, Pepe Romero Nicanor Zabaleta, Maurice André, Victoria de los Ángeles, Teresa Berganza, Renata Scottò, Mirella Freni, Enequina Lloris, Alfredo Kraus, etc.

He is a corresponding academician of the Real Academia de Bellas Artes de San Fernando de Madrid, of the Real Academia de Bellas Artes Santa Isabel de Hungría in Sevilla, and a tenured academician of the Real Academia de Bellas Artes de San Carlos de Valencia. In 2014, the Llíria City Council awarded him the "City Medal". In 2018, the Llíria City Council granted him the "Premio Jaume I de la Villa de Llíria".

First spokesperson:

## VIRGINIA MARTÍNEZ

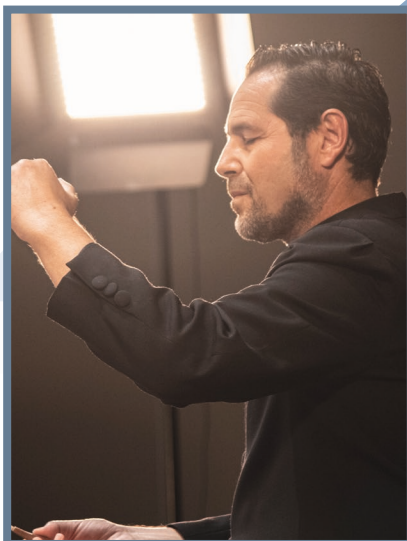
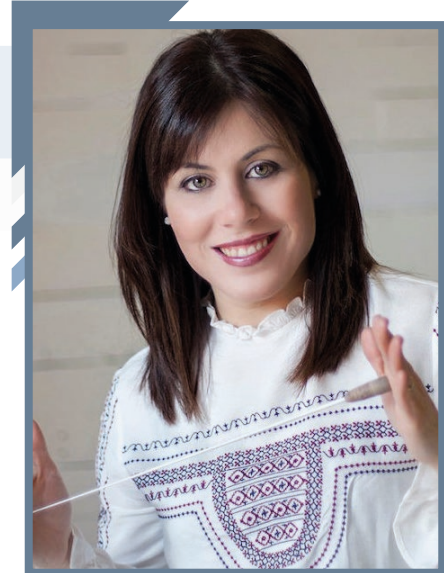
One of the most versatile conductors on the national scene, Virginia Martínez has developed her career as artistic director and chief conductor of the Symphony Orchestra of the Region of Murcia and the Youth Orchestra of the Region of Murcia, for 11 and 18 seasons, respectively.

She begins her musical studies at the age of six. After graduating in Piano, Harmony and Counterpoint, she soon received a scholarship from the Seneca Foundation to further study conducting in Vienna, which she ends in 2003 conducting Stravinsky's *Fire Bird* for the ORF Vienna Radio Symphony Orchestra and earning the grade of "Magna Cum Laude with special mention". This is followed by premieres with the Contemporary Music Ensemble of the Vienna Conservatory and her official presentation in Murcia at the head of the Symphony Orchestra of the Region of Murcia.

In January 2004, she was awarded "Youth of the Year" by the Department of Youth of the Region of Murcia and was appointed assistant to Bertrand de Billy at Barcelona's Gran Teatro del Liceu. with *Siegfried* and *Götterdämmerung*. In the 2005/6 season, she is assistant conductor of the Barcelona Symphony Orchestra, combined with the artistic direction of ESMUC Orchestra. In 2006/7 she is assistant conductor with the Valencia Orchestra, together with Yaron Traub.

She has conducted the main Spanish orchestras, as well as tours with the Wiener Kammerorchester, the National Symphony Orchestra of the Dominican Republic, where she collaborates with Philippe Entremont, the Brasilia National Orchestra, the National Orchestra of Mexico, tour in the USA (McCormick Place in Chicago and New York Lincoln Center).

In 2016, the city of Molina de Segura inaugurated the "Virginia Martínez Fernández Auditorium" in her honour. Since then, she has received numerous mentions for being "one of the youngest and most important and orchestra conductors of the international scene", as well as "for her exceptional human qualities and for her teaching works", a result of her extraordinary work to bringing closer the classical music to the young audience.



Second spokesperson:

## FILIFE CUNHA

Filipe Cunha has been Chief Conductor of the Braga Philharmonic Orchestra (Portugal) since 2014. Braga is a UNESCO Creative City.

He has many years of experience as an instrumentalist and as a conductor. He studied transverse flute and clarinet, becoming principal clarinet soloist in the Symphonic Band.

He completed the Higher Conducting Course and specialized in orchestral conducting with Jean-Sebastien Béreau. He is regularly invited to direct orchestras outside of his country and to give conducting masterclasses. His musical career includes concerts in Portugal (continent and islands), Spain, France, Switzerland, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Germany, Venezuela, Puerto Rico, Brazil, the USA, Canada, China, Mexico, Poland and Cuba.

He is a member of the Samnium University of Music (Italy) as guest conductor, he is Honorary Conductor of the Korean Orchestra and a member of the Giuseppe Verdi Musical Society (Mexico) as an international maestro. In 2022, apart from concerts with the Braga Philharmonic Orchestra, he conducted the Ponta Delgada Sinfonietta Orchestra (Azores); Italian Opera Florence Orchestra (Italy); Malaga Camerata Orchestra; Symphony Orchestra of the

State of Puebla (Mexico) and Lutoslawski Chamber Orchestra (Poland).

In 2023, in addition to the concerts with the Braga Philharmonic Orchestra, he has concerts outside his country as the Municipal Symphonic Band of Seville (Spain); National Symphony Orchestra of Cuba; Symphony Orchestra of the Lyceu Mozarteum of Havana; San Remo Symphony Orchestra (Italy); Pazardzhik Symphony Orchestra (Bulgaria); Orchestra Harmonie Ensemble (Valencia) and Orchestra San Giovanni (Naples).

In 2024 he will conduct concerts in Mexico, Cuba, Brazil, Argentina, Spain (Oviedo, Malaga, Badajoz, etc...), Poland, the USA, Italy and the Azores.



Third spokesperson:

## ANDRÉS DAVID ASCANIO

He began his musical studies with the piano at the age of 4. At the Emil Friedman School at the age of 11 he began his trumpet studies. In the year 2000, after auditioning, he entered the National Children's Symphony of Venezuela, with which he made numerous tours throughout Europe, North and South America.

In 2004, he was selected for the trumpet row of the Simón Bolívar Symphony Orchestra of Venezuela, with which he has performed under the baton of Claudio Abbado, Sir Simon Rattle and Gustavo Dudamel, among others, and is also a member of the Simón Bolívar Trumpet Ensemble. In 2008 he began his studies in Orchestral Conducting with maestro José Antonio Abreu and has taken lessons with maestros Eduardo Marturet and Pablo Castellanos.

He has participated as a conductor in important festivals and international tours, with various orchestral groups from El Sistema. He works as Musical Director of the National Youth Orchestra of Venezuela, with which he performed in the city of Vienna in 2018, and of the National Children's Symphony of Venezuela, with which he made his debut in Geneva, Switzerland, in April 2023. He frequently conducts the Simón Bolívar Symphony Orchestra of Venezuela and the Juan Jose Landaeta Symphony Orchestra in El Sistema. He is currently the Musical Academic Director of El Sistema.



Fourth spokesperson:

## CRISTÓBAL SOLER

Considered one of the most important conductors of his generation, Cristóbal Soler has developed a career made up of a wide repertoire, both symphonic and lyrical. The critics are unanimous in highlighting his charisma and interpretive depth, as well as a precise and consolidated technique, the result of solid and rigorous training in Vienna, Berlin, Munich, Graz and Zurich from the hand of great conductors such as Harnoncourt, Sawallisch, Prêtre, Vladimir Fedoseyev or Mariss Jansons.

He has conducted an extensive catalogue of operas and zarzuelas, with outstanding mentions and awards, during six seasons as Musical Director of the Teatro Nacional de la Zarzuela, as well as premieres and recoveries of forgotten operas. He is invited by the most representative Spanish orchestras: Orchestra and Choir of the Spanish National Radio and Television Corporation, the OBC, the JONDE, the Valencia Symphony Orchestra, Galicia Symphony Orchestra, Community of Madrid Orchestra, the Symphony Orchestras of Bilbao, Seville, Castilla y León, Navarre Symphony Orchestra, Granada City Orchestra, etc., performing at halls such as the Palau de les Arts in Valencia, Auditorio Nacional in Madrid, Palau de la Música in Barcelona and Auditorio Baluarte in Pamplona.

He has conducted the Lausanne Chamber Orchestra (Victoria Hall in Geneva and Salle Métropole in Lausanne), as well as international tours in Austria (Mozarteum in Salzburg; Austria Centre in Vienna); France; Portugal; Poland; Czech Republic; Slovenia; Romania; Cuba; Venezuela (Caracas Symphony Orchestra); Mexico, Brazil or Argentina. Cristóbal Soler is the founding president of AESDO, Spanish Association of Orchestra Conductors, and Artistic Director of IOCC, International Orchestra Conducting Competition "Lliria City of Music".

## SOLOISTS

### LORENA VALERO

Mezzo-soprano, interprets the *Pierrot Lunaire* cycle, by Schoenberg.

The mezzo-soprano Lorena Valero stands out powerfully on stage due to her marked musical and theatrical personality with which she brings her characters to life, a wide gallery among which are *Carmen*, by Bizet; Santuzza from *Cavalleria Rusticana* and Salud, from *La Vida Breve*, at the Opéra-Théâtre Metz Métropole; Elena from *Mefistofele*, by Boito, at the Théâtre du Passage Neuchâtel and at the Théâtre Equilibre in Fribourg; Suzuki, from *Madame Butterfly*, at the Teatro Cilea in Reggio di Calabria and the Teatre Principal in Palma de Mallorca; Rosario, from *Goyescas*, at the Palau de la Música in Valencia and Lleida, without forgetting other characters such as Sesto, from *La Clemenza di Tito*, or Charlotte from *Werther*.

Disciple of Margarita Lilova, Kammersängerin and professor at the University of Vienna. She lived in the Austrian capital for years to perfect her artistic training, after obtaining her professional singing degree from the Conservatorio Superior del Liceo de Barcelona. She has been taught by Chena Dimitrova, Dolora Zajick, Jerzy Artisz, Roberto Scanduzzi and Helmut Deutsch. In addition, in Salzburg Lorena Valero won the Extraordinary Prize at the "Grandi Voci International Singing Competition".

She is an advocate of the Spanish repertoire, with special interest outside her country. Her debut at the Teatro San Carlo in Naples with Manuel de Falla's *El Sombrero de Tres Picos* and *El Amor Brujo* stand out with excellent reviews in Río de Janeiro and São Paulo.

The symphonic repertoire includes a wide range of works: Beethoven's *Missa Solemnis*, Mozart's *Requiem*, Mahler's Cycles –*Das Lied von der Erde*, *Lieder eines fahrenden Gesellen*, as well as his Symphony No. 4– or Schönberg's *Pierrot Lunaire*, with ensembles such as the Orquesta de Valencia, Pluralensemble and Collegium Instrumentale.



### MAR BONET SILVESTRE

Cello soloist of Tchaikovsky's *Variations on a Rococo Theme*.

The cellist Mar Bonet Silvestre (1998) grew up in a family of musicians from Valencia, and she started studying the cello at the age of four at first taught by her mother and M.I. Quirós. She was then a student of Pilar Navarro, Adolfo Gutierrez and Raúl Pinillos, completing her bachelor studies in 2020 at Queen Sofia School of Music under the guidance of Fernando Arias and Jens Peter Maintz. Thereafter, in 2022 she finished her master's studies at the Norwegian Academy of Music in Oslo, with Professor Torleif Thedéen and she currently holds the position of academist of the Rotterdam Philharmonic Orchestra. In the meantime, she is furthering her baroque cello studies at the Conservatorium van Amsterdam.

Internationally she has been awarded several prizes in competitions and invited to perform as a soloist in multiple orchestras both in Spain and Norway.

# The 25 Finalists

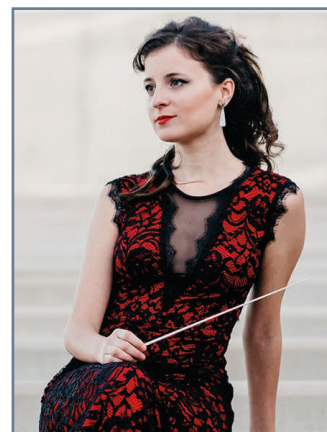


**SIEVA BORZAK**, born in Rome in 1997, is an Italian-Russian conductor.

After studying Opera Singing, Piano and Composition, he graduated with full marks and honours in conducting under the guidance of Marcello Bufalini, at the conservatory "Alfredo Casella" (L'Aquila). He studied afterwards with Riccardo Muti, Daniel Oren, Francesco Lanzillotta, Daniele Agiman and Niels Muus. He is currently assistant conductor to Francesco Lanzillotta. Starting in 2021 he is the new conductor in residence of the Roma Tre Orchestra. In 2022 he won the 1st prize in the Lake Como Conducting Competition. In the same year, he also won 3rd prize and the special prize "Bacau Philharmonic Orchestra" at the 10th Competition for Opera Conductors "Luigi Mancinelli".

In 2022 he was selected as Effective Student for the Riccardo Muti Italian Opera Academy, and he conducted Verdi's *Requiem*, with the Luigi Cherubini Youth Orchestra, at the Teatro Alighieri (Ravenna). In 2023 he made his house debut at the Teatro Petruzzelli, with Roma Tre Orchestra, conducting Beethoven's Symphony no. 9 "Ode to Joy". In May 2023 conducted Wagner's *Die Walküre*, in concert form, with Roma Tre Orchestra, and made his house debut at the National Opera House of Albania, with the new opera *Scanderbeg*. For the next season, he will conduct Turandot at the Aslico Circuit and will conduct symphonic concerts with Orchestra Sinfonica di Sanremo, Orchestra Magna Grecia, Bacau Philharmonic Orchestra, Sliven Symphony Orchestra.

**LORENA ESCOLAR**, born in Alcantarilla (Murcia), finished her musical studies in violin and orchestral conducting at the Conservatory of Music "Manuel Massotti Littel" in Murcia with Emilio Fenoy and José Miguel Rodilla, respectively. She has served as assistant conductor with the Valencia Orchestra at the Palau de la Música and of the maestro Ramón Tebar by competition, in whose assistance she conducted the National Choir of Spain. She has also conducted the Symphony Orchestra of the Balearic Islands at the Teatro Principal in Palma, the Navarra Symphony Orchestra at the Baluarte Auditorium, the Wind Orchestra of the Superior Conservatory of Music of Palma de Mallorca, and the Madrid Community Orchestra at the Teatro de la Zarzuela.



She has also been assistant conductor to maestro Guillermo García Calvo at the Teatro de la Zarzuela in Madrid where she has conducted the Madrid Community Orchestra and the Choir del Teatro de la Zarzuela in operas such as *Circe*, by Ruperto Chapí and *La Dolores*, by Tomás Bretón.

She has worked at the Chemnitz Opera House as Assistant Conductor to this same maestro conducting the Robert Schumann Philharmonie. She is currently Assistant Director of the Associació de Concerts de Reus and Camerata XXI.

She recently won second prize at the Lake Como International Conducting Competition in Italy. And among her next commitments, she will act as Assistant Conductor in the Würth Philharmoniker together with maestro Claudio Vandelli.



**RAFAEL GRAU VILAR** (Castelló – València–, 1990), chief conductor of the FSMCV Youth Symphony Orchestra and of the Musical Athenaeum Schola Cantorum of La Vall d'Uixó.

He has a higher degree in orchestra and choir conducting from the Superior Conservatory of Music "Joaquín Rodrigo" of Valencia, in composition from the Superior Music Conservatory "Óscar Esplà" of Alicante and a higher degree in trumpet from the Superior Music Conservatory "Salvador Seguí" of Castelló. He has a master's degree in musical composition with new technologies from the International University of La Rioja and is currently completing his training with a master's degree in research in specific didactics from the University of Valencia.

He has won the award for Best Director of all sections of the 42nd Music Band Contest of Valencia and the award for the best interpretation of the work of free choice of all divisions.

He has conducted solo concerts for musicians such as Eric Miyashiro, Raúl Junquera, David Pastor i Raúl García, Rafael Quirant, Bernardo Silva, José Juan Pardo, among others. He has conducted the pieces *The Armed Man* by Karl Jenkins and *Carmina Burana* by Carl Orff. Finally, he has been musical director in the productions of the zarzuelas *Los Claveles* and *Bohemios*.





### OREN GROSS-THALER

The young conductor Oren Gross-Thaler was born and raised in Tel Aviv, Israel. He conducted the Magdeburg Philharmonic Orchestra, Regensburg Philharmonic Orchestra, Festival Strings Lucerne, Aspen Festival Orchestra, Israel Sinfonietta Beer-Sheva, Israel Chamber Orchestra, Raanana Symphonette, and others. Recently he became the Music Director of the Bnei haKibbutzim Orchestra.

Gross-Thaler began at the age of ten to study saxophone at the Israel Conservatory with Gan Lev. In 2015 he won First Prize in the Israel Conservatory Competition. As a saxophone virtuoso, Gross-Thaler performed as a soloist with the Jerusalem Symphony Orchestra as well as with other Israeli orchestras. He began his conducting studies with George Pehlivanian in Valencia at the age of fifteen. During his studies at Thelma Yellin School of Arts, Gross-Thaler became a student of the top Israeli composer and conductor Noam Sheriff. He studied and specialized in music theory with Yitzhak Sadai, and in 2020 graduated with honours from the Buchmann-Mehta School of Music of Tel-Aviv University. Recently, he completed a professional programme for conductors at the Berlin University of the Arts.

Gross-Thaler was the youngest conductor to participate in several top music festivals: Aspen Music Festival in 2017, Lucerne Festival Conducting Masterclass with Bernard Haitink in 2018, and Tanglewood Music Festival in 2022.

**DANIEL HUERTAS** began his studies in conducting at Musikene (San Sebastián) under the guidance of Arturo Tamayo, obtaining excellent qualifications, after which he moved to the Higher School of Music in Geneva to begin master's studies in conducting with maestro Laurent Gay, which he continues to do at present. To his extensive training is added his experience as a clarinetist and pianist in chamber, orchestral and solo music; and masterclasses with Peter Ętvos, Jaap van Zweden, Domingo Hindoyan, Baldur Brönnimann, Robert Treviño, Nacho de Paz, among others.

In 2022 he was selected as an active participant in the Gstaad Menuhin Academy & Festival for conductors in Switzerland, where he conducted the Festival Orchestra and the Biel/Bienne Symphony Orchestra in several concerts, which earned him the Neeme Järvi Prize 2022.

He won second prize in the first conducting competition of Juventudes Musicales de España in February 2023. Previously, he has conducted ensembles such as the Ensemble Contrechamps, worked as Assistant Conductor for Victorien Vanoosten at the French Basque Country Symphony Orchestra and for Arturo Tamayo; and as a fellow in the recent production of *Parsifal* at the Grand Theatre in Geneva.

He will soon have the opportunity to conduct the Pays-Savoie Symphony Orchestra, the Philharmonie Südwestfalen and the Castilla y León Symphony Orchestra.



### DANIEL JOSEPH

Gloucestershire-born, runs a busy and rewarding schedule nationally and internationally as a conductor and violinist.

As an orchestral musician he regularly works and tours with many of the UK's finest orchestras including the BBC's Symphony, National Orchestra of Wales and Scottish Symphony Orchestras, Royal Philharmonic and Royal Scottish National Orchestras and the Welsh National Opera and Scottish Chamber Orchestras. His chamber partners have also included members of the Berlin Philharmonic.

In the summer of 2022, he was invited to become a Fellow at the world-renowned Music Academy of the West in California, where he led the Academy Festival Opera Orchestra in a series of highly acclaimed performances of Tchaikovsky's *Eugene Onegin*. As a concertmaster and section principal he has the privilege of working closely with Trevor Pinnock, Stéphane Denève, Sir Mark Elder, Daniela Candillari and Semyon Bychkov.

Daniel was awarded an ABRSM scholarship for a Joint Principal degree at the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland, studying violin performance and conducting under the guidance of Joseph Swensen.

He has assisted with a variety of orchestras throughout the UK and Europe and in various settings he has worked with the Orchestra Nationale du Capitole de Toulouse, RSNO, BBC Scottish Symphony, Danubia Orchestra Obuda, BBC NOW and the Orchestra of Scottish Opera. Dan was invited to attend as a Fellow of the 2021 American Academy of Conducting at Aspen.





**HAE LEE** is a conductor from Seoul, South Korea. He was selected as the fellow conductor at the Cabrillo Festival of Contemporary Music and Baltimore Chamber Orchestra Conducting Seminar. Hae was also chosen for a conducting masterclass at the Korea National Opera.

Hae conducted Mozart's *Le nozze di Figaro*, Donizetti's *L'elisir d'amore*, Puccini's *La Bohème* and *Gianni Schicchi*.

As a cover conductor of Marin Alsop, Hae worked for the São Paulo Symphony Orchestra, Baltimore Symphony Orchestra, and American Composers Orchestra in various concert venues, including Joeseph Meyerhoff Symphony Hall, Music Center at Strathmore, and Carnegie Hall.

Hae has been mentored by Neeme Järvi, Dalia Stasevska, Kirill Karabits, Mei-Ann Chen, Jonathon Heyward, Martin Sieghart, Valentina Peleggi, Kevin John Edusei, Eva Ollikainen, Peter Oundjian, Sebastian Lang-Lessing, Octavio Mas-Arocas, Fabien Gabel, and Cristian Măcelaru. Through the masterclasses, Hae worked with the Richmond Symphony, Moravian Philharmonic, and Baltimore Symphony Orchestra.

As a recipient of the Academic Performance Scholarship, he holds a Bachelor of Arts in Conducting from the Korea National University of Arts. In May, Hae will receive a master's in orchestral conducting from the Peabody Institute of the Johns Hopkins University as a student of Marin Alsop. Hae is the recipient of the Career Development Grant, Peabody Graduate Assistantship, and Artistic Excellence Award.

**MAXIMILIAN LEINEKUGEL** has recently conducted the Southwest German Chamber Orchestra Pforzheim, the Orchestra of the Czech National Theatre, the Orchestra of the Sorbian National Ensemble, the Budapest Symphony Orchestra MÁV as well as the Athens Philharmonia Orchestra.

At the age of 20, the Munich-born conductor founded in the beginning of 2016 the MUNICH CLASSICAL PLAYERS, a chamber orchestra consisting of advanced instrumentalists of German and Austrian Music Universities. Since then, every year several extraordinary concert projects are realized under his direction across Bavaria, inspiring new audiences and enthusing them with classical music. Furthermore, Maximilian has worked as assistant conductor in Germany, Italy, Sweden and the UK.

Maximilian received his first conducting tuition at the University of Music and Performing Arts in Munich. In 2021 he completed his master's degree in orchestral conducting at the Royal Birmingham Conservatoire and the Royal College of Music in Stockholm. Besides, he took part in various international conducting masterclasses led by Jorma Panula, Atso Almila, Christian Ehwald, Mark Heron and others. He has received scholarships from the German Federal Government Commissioner for Culture and Media, the German Academic Scholarship Foundation, and the Bavarian Elite Academy.

In 2018 he was awarded the Culture Prize of the Süddeutsche Zeitung. In 2021 he was a quarter finalist at the 3rd Antal Dorati International Conducting Competition in Budapest.



**BRIAN LIAO** is a promising young conductor from Taiwan, known for his exceptional skills and ability to inspire musicians. He gained recognition as the assistant conductor for the Nationale Orchestre d'île-de-France during the 20/21 season.

Liao's accomplishments include winning the 2nd prize in the 2nd Only Stage International Conducting Competition and the 3rd prize in the 2nd BMI International Bucharest Conducting Competition. He was also a finalist in the 7th Lovro von Matačić International Conducting Competition and a laureate of the 3rd International Conducting Competition for Chinese Music in Hong Kong.

In 2023, Liao was selected as a finalist for the prestigious London Philharmonic Orchestra Conducting Fellowship out of 200 applicants. He was also chosen as one of the 16 finalists for the 2nd Hong Kong Conducting Competition. During the 22/23 season, he is set to debut with the Taipei Symphony Orchestra and Hungary Budapest MAV Symphony Orchestra.

Liao has worked with renowned orchestras worldwide, including the London Philharmonic Orchestra, Orchestre National d'île-de-France, South Denmark Philharmonic, and Festival Strings Lucerne. He has also collaborated with the National Taiwan Symphony Orchestra, Gran Canaria Philharmonic Orchestra, and George Enescu Philharmonic, among others.

He is pursuing a master's degree at Salzburg Mozarteum University under the guidance of Ion Marin.



**CHI-YUAN LIN**, born in Taoyuan, Taiwan, is the mentee of the "She's Connected" Project from Taki Alsop Conducting Fellowship for 2023-2024. She is currently pursuing a Ph.D. in orchestral conducting at the Peabody Institute of Johns Hopkins University, studying with Marin Alsop and Joseph Young starting in 2021 through a full-tuition scholarship.

For the past seasons, she worked as a cover conductor with Baltimore Symphony Orchestra, São Paulo Symphony Orchestra and Hartford Symphony Orchestra, and assistant conductor at Peabody Opera Theatre with Brian Garman, Laurie Rogers. In 2022-23, she served as head pianist and vocal coach in Peabody Opera Theatre. In the summer of 2021, she received the conducting fellowship of the Aspen Music Festival. An avid promoter of contemporary music, she conducted several premieres of orchestra and chamber works and was invited to conduct at Contemporary Music Festival in Taipei in the same year.

Lin is also an advocate for music education. She has constantly been working as an instructor hosting music and literature workshops for the youth with a variety of topics ranging from new media to theatre and natural conservation.

She received her master's and bachelor's degree from National Taiwan Normal University, where she studied conducting with Prof. Apo Ching-Hsin Hsu. She has drawn artistic inspiration from her international conducting studies with maestri including Hugh Wolff, Patrick Summers, Dalia Stasevska.

**ALEXANDER MARINESKU** was born in Chisinau, where he got his primary music education and started his professional flute studies at Woodwind College in Moscow in 2006, entering Moscow Tchaikovsky Conservatory in 2007 into the class of flute and traverse flute. Beginning in April 2009 Alexander studies also at Hochschule für Musik Karlsruhe with Renate Greiss-Armin and Musikhochschule Stuttgart with Davide Formisano.

During this time, Alexander won some important competitions, like the T. Böhm flute Competition in Munich (Special Prize, 2011) and S. Gazzelloni Competition in Pescara, Italy (first Prize, 2017)

Since 2013 Alexander is flute soloist at Mariinsky Orchestra in St Petersburg with Valery Gergiev as chief conductor and P. Heras-Casado, P. Jarvi and N. Zneider as guest conductors. Alexander is also collaborating as flute soloist with SWR Symphony Orchestra Stuttgart and Konzerthausorchester Berlin under Christoph Eschenbach, Teodor Currentzis, Juraj Walchucha, Rudolf Buchbinder, among others.

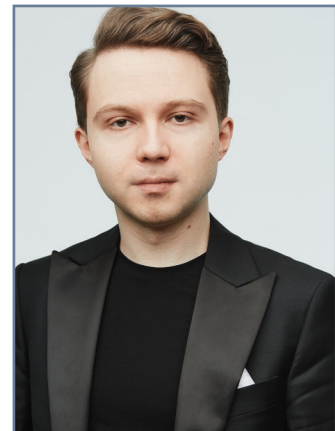
In 2018 Alexander Marinesku wins a Presidential Grant of Russia for conducting studies at St Petersburg N. Rimski-Korsakov Conservatory where he enters the class of Alexander Polishuk, also studying with Pavel Bubelnikov and Stanislav Dyachenko (Moscow State Conservatory).

In October 2018 as well as in April 2021 Alexander takes part in a conducting masterclass of Vladimir Fedoseev as active participant.

In January 2020 Alexander Marinesku enters conducting class of Juri Lebedev.

In May 2020 Alexander was selected for the Bucharest Conducting masterclass with Christian Ehwald and Sigmund Thorp, as well as for Jeunesses Musicales Conducting Competition (rescheduled for 2021).

Alexander regularly conducts the Orchestra of St Petersburg Conservatory with pieces by C.M. von Weber, J. Brahms, Beethoven, F. Schubert, R. Wagner and F. Mendelssohn.



**DANIEL MARTÍNEZ HERMOSO**

He began his musical studies at the Musical Group "Villa de Mancha Real" specializing in clarinet and continued his training at the Professional Conservatory of Music "Ramón Garay" in Jaen. Later, he continued at the Conservatory of Music in Málaga, where he finished his studies with honours under the guidance of José María Puyana.

In parallel, at the C.S.M in Malaga, he studies for orchestral conducting with Octav Calleya. He completed his training through masterclasses with Juany Martínez, Miguel Sánchez Ruzafa, Kurz Wolfgang, Iulian Rusu, Álvaro Albiach, Frank de Vuyst, Arturo Tamayo, José Luis Temes, Yi-Chen Lin, John Carewe... He has also been a student of the International Academy of Orchestra Conducting "José Collado".

He has participated as assistant conductor in the historical recovery and premiere of the zarzuela "El Carillón de Brujas", by Adolfo Wagener.

In turn, he has participated in the Cuenca Religious Music Festival and the Cullera Opera Open Air Festival.

He holds a master's degree in orchestral conduction and a master's degree in musical heritage. In 2022 he was the winner of the Course-Competition for Conductors of the Lugo Music Festival.

He has been assistant conductor with the Classical Choir of Granada and is currently the artistic and musical director of the Musical Group "Villa de Mancha Real", orchestra professor at the Professional Conservatory of Music "Ángel Barrios" in Granada and musical director of the choir "Cantoría de Jaén".



**JAKUB MONTEWKA** is assistant conductor of the Opole Philharmonic in the season 2022-2023.

He has conducted London Symphony Orchestra, Polish Baltic Philharmonic Orchestra in Gdańsk, Artur Rubinstein Philharmonic in Łódź, Józef Elsner Opole Philharmonic Orchestra, Polish Radio Symphony Orchestra, Podlasie Philharmonic Orchestra in Białystok. In 2021 he founded the Flow Orchestra (former Concentus Viridis).

Montewka studied conducting at the Frederic Chopin University of Music with Monika Wolińska and Szymon Kawalla (2018-2020). He took part in masterclasses with Magnus Lindberg, Oliver Knussen, Carlo Montanaro and Massimiliano Caldi, and is now continuing his conducting studies with Paweł Przytocki at the Krzysztof Penderecki Academy of Music in Kraków. He studied composition at the Royal Academy of Music in London and at the FCUM in Warsaw.

Jakub Montewka participated in the Donatella Flick Conducting Competition 2023. He is a finalist in the Bartók World Competition 2020 and the 7th Witold Lutosławski Competition for Young Conductors. He won 1st Prize and the Performers' Prize in the

Composition Competition Uczniowskie Forum Muzyczne (Warsaw, 2013) and 1st Prize in the 2nd International Composition Competition "Patri Patriae" (Katowice, 2014). In 2019 he conducted the premiere recording of "Maat's Feather" by Marcin Jachim, as a part of the CD debut of the Chopin University Modern Ensemble, nominated for the prestigious FRYDERYK 2021 award.

### CLÉMENT NONCIAUX

French conductor Clément Nonciaux holds a master's degree in orchestral conducting from the University of the Arts in Berlin. After receiving numerous awards at the Conservatoires régionaux of Paris and Tours, his love for opera naturally led him to pursue his studies abroad, where he began studying orchestral conducting in Freiburg-im-Breisgau, Germany.

After winning second prize at the inaugural International Competition for Pianists, Conductors, and Composers Rachmaninoff in Moscow, he instantly received invitations to perform in concerts at prestigious venues including the Mariinsky Theatre in St. Petersburg, the Novaya Opera Theatre in Moscow, and with the highly acclaimed National Youth Symphony Orchestra of Russia.

Nonciaux has conducted such distinguished orchestras as the London Symphony Orchestra, Mariinsky Orchestra, Komische Oper Berlin Orchestra, Tchaikovsky Symphony Orchestra, National Youth Orchestra of Russia, Stuttgart Philharmonic Orchestra, State Symphony Capella of Russia, Brandenburg State Orchestra, Kammerakademie Potsdam, Philharmonia Orchestra.

His principal teachers were Steven Sloane, Harry Curtis, Scott Sandmeier, and Dylan Corlay. Moreover, throughout his career, he has received guidance from international conductors including Valery Gergiev, Sir Roger Norrington, Martyn Brabbins, Vladimir Fedoseyev, Alexander Sladkovsky, Attilio Cremonesi, Claude Schnitzler, George Pehlivanian, and Bruno Weil.



**RIKU OKAMOTO** is the 1st prize winner of the 4th BMI International Conducting Competition (2022/ROM).

He was invited to the final rounds of the 57th International Besançon Competition for Young Conductors (2021/FRA), the finalist of the 2nd Only Stage International Conducting Competition (2022/GBR), the semi-finalist of the 6th Ionel Perlea International Conducting Competition (2022/ROM).

Born in Shiga, Japan in 1998, Riku Okamoto began to study violin at the age of three, he won the 4th prize at the 26th Japan classical music competition. In 2017, he entered the Department of Conduction of the Tokyo College of Music as a Special Scholarship Student, and was taught by Junichi Hirokami, Toshifumi Tashiro, Nobutaka Masui, Akihito Mihara, Toshihiro Yonezu.

Furthermore, he was chosen as a scholar of the Toda Scholarship Foundation by the Tokyo College of Music from 2017 to 2020.

He was an assistant conductor with the Super Kids Orchestra (Artistic Director Yutaka Sado, belongs to the Hyogo Performing Arts Centre), Kyoto Junior Orchestra (Supervisor Junichi Hirokami, belongs to the City of Kyoto Symphony Orchestra).

He has participated in conducting masterclasses with Boris Belkin, Tsugio Tokunaga, Yasuhiko Shiozawa, Jin Wang.





**MARCEL ORTEGA I MARTÍ** graduated in orchestra and choir conducting at Musike-ne and obtained his master's degree at the Haute École de Musique in Geneva. He has conducted the Euskadi Symphony Orchestra, the Bilbao Symphony Orchestra, and the Orchester de Chambre de Genève. He participates in the Gstaad Conducting Academy with Jaap van Zweden, director of the New York Philharmonic.

He has assisted Arturo Tamayo at ORTVE and since 2019 he is conductor of the Municipal Band of Castellón. He has been invited by the Orquestra Simfònica del Vallès, the Camerata Toldrà or the BM of Barcelona and Vitoria.

He has led symphonic-choral productions such as Beethoven's Symphony no.9, Mozart's *Requiem*, Brahms or Cherubini or Jenkins' *Mass*. He was recently a finalist for the position of Deputy Director of the National Choir of Spain.

He has conducted leading soloists such as Ximo Vicedo, Enrique Pérez, Ana Sánchez and Vicente Campos.

Committed to contemporary music, he has to his credit premieres such as Symphony no.1 by Joan Guinjoan or *In blood we trust*, by Xavier Gelabert, as well as Spanish premieres by Cindy McTee, Chen Yi or Chang Su Koh.

He spends an important part of his life in Italy, where he assists in the productions of *La Bohème*, *Madama Butterfly* or *L'elisir d'amore*. He has been a student of Riccardo Muti and has served as an assistant for *Wozzeck*, at the Grand Théâtre in Geneva. He has conducted the main Wagnerian symphonic fragments, such as *Tristan and Isolde*, *Parsifal* or *Tannhäuser*.

**FERNANDO PALOMEQUE**

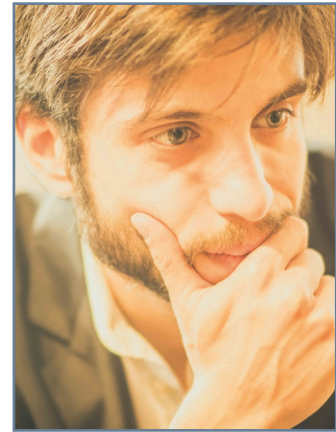
Pianist and conductor, born in Buenos Aires in 1990, he's a prize-winner in several international competitions. He has performed in both métiers in the United States, France, Austria, Germany, Italy, Switzerland, Spain, Hungary, Romania, and most of South America. He has worked with great personalities such as Peter Eötvös, L. Fleischer, N. Hodges, Bruno Gelber, Akiko Ebi, among others.

His passion for contemporary music led him to cofound the Ensemble Écoute in Paris, acting as its musical and artistic director. Furthermore, he has conducted the National Symphony Orchestra (Argentina), the Danubia Orchestra Obuda (Budapest), the orchestra of the Teatro Colón Academy, Divertimento Ensemble (Italy), the OTM Orchestra in New Jersey and the Filarmonica Dinu Lipati (Romania).

In Germany, he has conducted the Ensemble Musikfabrik, Ensemble Modern, the Dortmunder Philharmoniker, the Neue Philharmonie Westfalen, Bergischen Sinfonikern and Anhaltische Philharmonie Dessau. Furthermore, he has been in front of the Ensembles Sargo and Nomads (Switzerland), the Ensemble du DAI Contemporain of Conservatoire de Paris, the Orchestra Symphony of Bolivar (Colombia).

In 2019, he assisted Sofi Jeannin in a production of *Die Jasager* at Radio France and in 2017, he made his debut as a conductor in the US conducting his first opera with the Opera Theatre of Montclair in New Jersey presenting a full production of *La Cenerentola* by G Rossini.

He continues his studies at the Robert Schumann Hochschule.



**PABLO PEGALAJAR** (Granada, 1994), conductor, musicologist, and composer, began his conducting studies with Enrique García Asensio and Jesús Amigo. In turn, he was introduced to composition by studying with renowned composers such as Jesús Rueda, Enrique Igoa and Alicia Díaz, among others.

After finishing his studies at the Royal Conservatory of Music in Madrid, he was awarded a Fulbright scholarship (2018) and a "la Caixa" Foundation scholarship (2020) to continue his studies in conducting in the United States. During his years in this country, he had the opportunity to study with Markand Thakar and the Baltimore Chamber Orchestra and Charles Peltz and Frank Battisti at the New England Conservatory, as well as being an assistant to conductors Christopher Larkin and Laszlo Marosi. Added to all the above are masterclasses with internationally renowned maestros such as Ignacio García Vidal, Gianluigi Gelmetti, Vittorio Parisi or Karel Mark Chichon together with the Gran Canaria Philharmonic Orchestra.

He is currently finishing his Ph.D. at the College-Conservatory of Music at the University of Cincinnati under the guidance of Mark Gibson, a project that will culminate in a stay at the Cincinnati Symphony Orchestra during the 2023/2024 season.

As a researcher, he focuses his activity on reviewing the Andalusian symphonic repertoire, counting on publications on the reception of Manuel de Falla in the US, as well as on defining the different musical bridges between Spain and the US, having worked directly with composers such as Leonardo Balada.





### EROS QUESADA

born in Burjassot (Valencia), studied tuba at the professional and superior music conservatories of Valencia, with Eduardo Nogueroles and Miguel Moreno, respectively. Afterwards, he accessed the Superior Music Centre "Musikene" of the Basque Country with high qualifications to study for a bachelor's in orchestral conducting with maestro Arturo Tamayo, where he finishes his studies by taking an exam with the Bilbao Symphony Orchestra.

He has been director and founder of the "Los Silos" Symphony Orchestra of Burjassot in 2014 and of the Grup Instrumental Turia in 2018, an ensemble with the aim of programming music from the 20th and 21st centuries.

He has belonged to the Orfeón Universitario of the University of Valencia and the Orfeón Donostiarra. He has also belonged to the FSMCV Band.

Different concerts stand out, such as *El Amor Brujo*, in 2017, or those performed with the Orchestra and the Musikene Student Band, distinguishing themselves last March 2023 by performing Beethoven's Symphony no.9, filling the Kursaal Auditorium in San Sebastián.

He has received masterclasses from Nacho de Paz, Ernest Martínez Izquierdo, Franck Ollu, Juanjo Mena, Nicholas Chalvin, Eric Nielsen and Tito Ceccherini, among others, and has recently been chosen by Robert Treviño, head of the Euskadi Orchestra, to conduct the orchestra at a subscription concert in June.

**BERNAT QUETGLAS** began his musical studies at the age of 4 with maestro Bernat Pomar. He studied for a professional degree in viola at the Conservatory of Palma de Mallorca and accessed the Royal Conservatory of Music in Madrid in 2011 in the specialties of composition and orchestral conducting, both finished in the academic year 2014-2015.

In 2018 he finished his master's degree in orchestral conducting at the Alfonso X University in Madrid, obtaining honours. He is currently furthering his conducting studies at the prestigious Hochschule für Musik Franz Liszt in Weimar with Professor Nicolás Pasquet.

During these years, in the field of conducting, he has received tuition from maestros Nicolás Pasquet, Daniele Gatti, Jukka-Pekka Saraste, Lothar Zagrosek, Johannes Wildner, Gianluigi Gelmetti, Karel Mark Chichon, Álvaro Albiach, Antoni Ros Marbà, Miguel Romea or Andrés Salado.

Today he is chief conductor of the Mallorca Chamber Orchestra and has served as assistant conductor with the ADDA Simfònica between 2019 and 2020.

In different settings, he has conducted orchestras such as the Tonkünstler Orchestra, the Balearic Islands Symphony Orchestra, the Gran Canaria Philharmonic Orchestra, the Extremadura Orchestra, the Spanish National Youth Orchestra (JONDE), the Italian Giovanile Orchestra (OGI), the Berlin Sinfonietta, the Bulgarian Classic Orchestra, the Ciutat d'Eivissa Symphony Orchestra, the Symphony Orchestra of the Conservatori Superior de les Balears, the Palma Municipal Band and other ensembles.



**DANIEL ROS** was assistant conductor with ADDA Simfònica and Orquesta Joven de Córdoba during 2019-2021. In addition, since 2019 he has been assistant conductor with the OSRM, a job that he combines with his residency in Rotterdam for his master's studies in orchestral conducting in Codarts Rotterdam under the guidance of Hans Leenders and Sander Teeppen. Likewise, he is a member of the board of directors of AESDO and, since its foundation in 2021, he is the artistic and musical director of Intensiō.

In 2017 he completed his higher studies in orchestral conducting at the Murcia Conservatory of Music. He has also studied with great maestros such as Antoni Hermus, Karel Deseure, Igor Gruppman, Jurjen Hempel, Nacho de Paz, Karel Mark Chichon and Johannes Wildner, among others. On the other hand, he has completed his postgraduate training in AIDO "José Collado" with maestro Cristóbal Soler. He has conducted, among others, orchestras such as the OSRM, ADDA-Simfònica, Het Nederlands Studenten Kamerorkest, Sinfonia Rotterdam, Berlin Symphoniker, Berlin Sinfonietta, Malta Philharmonic Orchestra, Orquesta de Córdoba, Leiden Sinfonietta, Gran Canaria Philharmonic Orchestra or JONDE.

In 2019 he was awarded a scholarship as a fellow conductor by INAEM and JONDE. AESDO Award 2021.

He has conducted at prestigious venues such as the Palau de les Arts in Valencia, the Muziekgebouw in Eindhoven, or the Spiegelzaal de la Concertgebouw in Amsterdam. His next commitments are in Spain, the Netherlands and Germany.



**SASHA SCOLNIK-BROWER** is an American conductor based in Amsterdam and Boston. In the spring of 2023, Sasha led a production of Rossini's *La scala di seta* with the Dutch National Opera Academy at the Bredeweg Festival in Amsterdam, made his debut with the Noord Nederlands Orkest in a programme of Schubert and Sibelius, and assisted Patrick Lange in a new production of *Der Freischütz* at Theater an der Wien. Other recent projects include serving as assistant conductor to James Macmillan with the Radio Filharmonisch Orkest and to Clark Rundell with the Nederlands Kammerorkest. As a part of the Dutch National Master of Music in Orchestral Conducting, Sasha also conducted the Residentie Orkest, Phion Orkest, and the Nederlands Philharmonisch Orkest, working with Kenneth Montgomery, Jac van Steen and Ed Spanjaard.

Sasha is a graduate of The Juilliard School where he studied conducting with David Robertson, served as the assistant conductor to Peter Oundjian, Mark Wigglesworth, and Itzhak Perlman, and led concerts with the Juilliard Orchestra. From 2018-2019, Sasha was also a conducting fellow at the Aspen Music Festival where he received the Robert Spano Conducting Prize. He was the longest-serving music director of Harvard's Bach Society Orchestra (2014-2017) and the music director of the Harvard College Opera's 2017 production of *Le Nozze di Figaro*, sung in the original Italian for the first time in the organization's history. Sasha has also served as the cover conductor for the Atlanta Symphony, Indianapolis Symphony, and National Symphony Orchestras.

**TATSUMA TAKAHASHI** was born in Yokosuka City, Japan in 1989, and took his first piano lessons at the age of four. When he was 12, he became a member of a junior high school orchestra, playing the cello, which led him to conducting. In 2008, he enrolled in the Conducting Division of the Tokyo University of the Arts Faculty of Music.

He was a Rohm Music Foundation conducting trainee in 2010, and a Meiji Yasuda Cultural Foundation scholarship student in 2011. In 2012, he graduated from the Tokyo University of the Arts, achieving the Acanthus, Doseikai and Ataka Awards. He has been living in Berlin since 2016, where he studied at the Hochschule für Musik Hanns Eisler Berlin.

As well as being a conductor, he is also a collaborative pianist. At present, he is keenly focused on vocal music. He works very frequently with singers from all over the world. His repertoire now covers a wide range of periods, from baroque to contemporary music, whereas he especially cherishes works by romantic composers. In addition, he occasionally works as a keyboard player in several orchestras in Japan and Germany. His activities also include composing and arrangement, and his works have been performed in Japan and other countries.

He has studied orchestral conducting under Christian Ehwald, Alexander Vitlin, Ivan Anguélov, Tadaaki Otaka, Ken Takaseki, Seiji Ozawa, Yuji Yuasa, Tatsuya Shimono, Neeme Jarvi, Paavo Jarvi, Jorma Panula, Douglas Bostock and Riccardo Muti.



**SCOTT GENTILE** conductor, pianist and composer, has performed in Austria, Germany, Italy, Portugal, Chile and across the USA. He has conducted on some of the most preeminent venues including Carnegie Hall and the Musikverein Wien.

In 2019, he received his first international honour for his conducting by winning the 2nd prize at the Klangkraft Dirigierwettbewerb Conducting Competition in Duisburg, Germany. In January of 2020, he won back-to-back competitions at the International Conducting Competition in Atlanta, Georgia and the Eduardo Browne Conducting Competition in Santiago, Chile.

Most recently he was awarded the Respighi Conducting Prize 2022 which led to his conducting debut at Carnegie Hall with the Chamber Orchestra of New York. As a composer, he wrote the score for the film "American Murderer" which was released in October of 2022. His score for "American Murderer" was featured in film festivals such as Taormina Film Festival, Newport Beach Film Festival, San Diego Film Festival and the 38th Boston Film Festival where he received the award for Best Film Score.

Reviews from the world premiere at the Taormina Film Festival described the score as "melo, evocative and last but not least it is amazingly talented and mature work" (Carmelita Celi, "La Sicilia" Magazine).

Scott holds degrees from the Whalen School of Music at Ithaca College and the Aaron Copland School of Music at Queens College.

He completed his advanced studies in composition at the Berklee College of Music.



**CLARA WAGSTEINER** (b. Bauer) works as conductor at the Wiener Volkstheater, as chief conductor of the Alma Mahler Philharmonie and as fellow conductor at the Akademie Musiktheater heute.

Recent highlights include her debuts with the ORF Radio-Symphonieorchester Wien, the Südwestdeutsche Philharmonie Konstanz, the Südwestdeutsches Kammerorchester Pforzheim, London Symphony Orchestra, and the Alma Mahler Philharmonie.

In 2019, she was selected as conducting fellow and Assistant Conductor of the Bergische Symphoniker in Wuppertal, Germany. In 2020, she graduated with honours from the University of Music and Performing Arts Vienna. In 2021, she put a long-held dream into action: to found a virtuoso chamber orchestra that shares new concert settings and programmes with a focus on 20th and 21st-century music with its audience.

In 2022, she receives the Startstipendium (scholarship) for Music and Performing Arts from the Federal Ministry of Arts and Culture, Civil Service and Sports in Austria.

Clara has a strong passion for contemporary pieces and music by composers who are hardly present in music historiography simply because of their gender or religion, thinking of Erich Zeisl, Hugo Kauder and Mélanie Bonis. There is so much fantastic music to be discovered.

## ORCHESTRAS AESDO AWARD



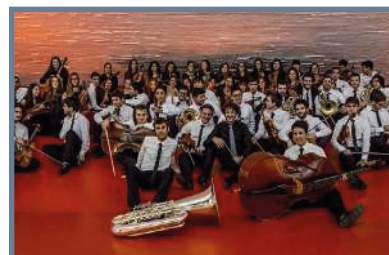
**FSMCV YOUTH SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA**



**HARMONIE ENSEMBLE**



**ESMAR ORCHESTRA**



**EXTREMADURA YOUTH ORCHESTRA**



**YOUTH ORCHESTRA OF THE REGION OF MURCIA**



## Collaborating Orchestras



### ORQUESTA SINFÓNICA DE RADIO Y TELEVISIÓN ESPAÑOLA (ORTVE)

Created in **1965** by Igor Markevitch, it is **one of the youngest orchestras on European radio and television**. It is the only symphonic and choral institution that performs an intrinsic audiovisual function since **everything it performs is broadcast** on RTVE.

Its presence is common in the soundtracks of TVE series and national and international films, as well as in many Spanish festivals and in international cities, within their concert tours.

Its batons include Pablo González, Enrique García Asensio, Miguel Ángel Gómez Martínez, among others. At present its chief conductor is **Christoph König**.



### ORQUESTRA DE VALÈNCIA

The ensemble was **created in 1943** with Joan Lamote de Grignon as its first director. Based in the Palau de la Música, it has developed a **long musical career** with concerts throughout Spain, Italy, Turkey, Germany, Austria and the Czech Republic.

Its regular conductors include J. Iturbi, E. García Asensio, Manuel Galduf, Miguel Ángel Gómez Martínez and Yaron Traub. **The current conductor is Alexander Liebreich**.





## ADDA-SIMFÒNICA ALICANTE

The stable Symphony Orchestra of the "Fundación de la Comunitat Valenciana – ADDA" is at the same time the resident orchestra of the Auditorium of the Diputación de Alicante. Surrounded by the light of the Mediterranean coast, ADDA SIMFÒNICA ALICANTE has rapidly become an important part of the Valencian musical life with a presence also at the Palau de les Arts Reina Sofia (ENSEMS 19/20/21/22/23) and Spanish, performing in festivals throughout the territory, debuting internationally in 2022 with an acclaimed double concert in Berlin.

The personality of the sound of ADDA SIMFÒNICA ALICANTE can only be understood as a reflection of its founder and chief conductor Josep Vicent, a signature orchestra that arouses emotions and inspiration in the public at each of its concerts.



## ORQUESTA SINFÓNICA DE EL SISTEMA DE VENEZUELA

Work of social and cultural significance of the Venezuelan state, founded and instituted in 1975 by the distinguished musician and composer Maestro José Antonio Abreu to systematize the instruction and collective and individual practice of music, through symphony orchestras and choirs, as instruments of social organization and humanistic development.

This pedagogical model, a powerful network of orchestras, choirs, modules, programmes, nuclei, music schools, conservatories, and centres for luthery and musical instrument manufacturing, provides free training to 1,012,077 thousand children and young people served in 443 nuclei and 1,704 modules distributed in all the states of the country, in which the collective practice of music is promoted, transforming individual development into collective strength and contributing to the building of an inclusive, fair and equitable society with a broad national identity.



## ORQUESTA FILARMÓNICA DE MÁLAGA (OFM)

It was born in 1991 thanks to a consortium between the city council and the Junta de Andalucía, out of **the conviction that the city had to have an ensemble**. In addition to concert programming, it makes recordings and special projects.

Its **chief and artistic director is José María Moreno**, who has been preceded by Octav Calleya, Odón Alonso, Alexander Rahbari, Aldo Ceccato, Edmon Colomer and Manuel Hernández Silva.

It has the Málaga prize, the Distinction of Honour from the Diputación de Málaga or the **Bandera de Andalucía de las Artes**.



## SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA OF THE REGION OF MURCIA (OSRM)

It emerged in 2002 and currently has a permanent staff of **49 teachers** directed by Virginia Martínez. In its years of history, it has had the following chief conductors: José Miguel Rodilla, Enrique García Asensio, Alexander Vedernikov, Leo Brouwer, Jesús Amigo, Marcus Bosch and Pavel Baleff.

Annually, it performs a **Symphonic Subscription cycle**, school concerts, family concerts and actively participates in the Great Concerts and Dance cycles at the Víctor Villegas Auditorium in Murcia.



## OVIEDO FILARMONÍA

It was presented on February 6, **1999**, under the name Orquesta Sinfónica Ciudad de Oviedo, as an initiative of the city council to cover artistic needs in the different spaces of the city.

Since then, it has been an **ensemble involved in the social fabric** of the city, with the aim of bringing cultured music closer to the public. It holds concerts for children, summer concerts with popular programming or soundtrack concerts. But mainly, it is responsible for the Spanish Lyric Theatre Festival.

Until 2011, its chief conductor was Friedrich Haider. Currently, its chief conductor is **Lucas Macías** and the main guest conductor, **Iván López-Reynoso**.



## ORQUESTA CIUDAD DE GRANADA (OCG)

It has the institutional participation of the **Granada Consortium for Music**, made up of the Granada City Council, the Junta de Andalucía and the Diputación de Granada.

It was created **in 1990**, with Juan de Udaeta as director, a position that has also been occupied by Josep Pons, Jean-Jacques Kantorow, Salvador Mas, Andrea Marcon and the current Lucas Macías.

It has given concerts at the main theatres and festivals in Spain and internationally: Scala in Milan, the Gstaad Festival (Switzerland) or the Coimbra International Music Festival (Portugal).

It has been distinguished with the **Medalla de Honor de la Real Academia de Bellas Artes de Granada**, the "Manuel de Falla" Award or the Bandera de Andalucía 2015.





## ORQUESTA DE EXTREMADURA (OEX)

The Junta de Extremadura created the orchestra in 2000, as an instrument for **disseminating musical culture** in the region. It usually offers didactic concerts for schoolchildren, family concerts, cycles for new audiences or chamber cycles, and also extraordinary concerts with a social aim.

It has performed in the main national auditoriums, under batons such as Carlos Kalmar, José Ramón Encinar, Antoni Ros Marbá, Enrique García Asensio, Christopher Wilkins or Martin Sieghart.

Its regular directors have been Jesús Amigo and Álvaro Albiach. Its new artistic and musical director is **Andrés Salado**.



## ORQUESTA SINFÓNICA DE ANDALUCÍA (OSA)

It was born in 2023 with the main objective of bringing the very important Andalusian musical heritage to all corners of the Andalusian geography. The OSA is made up of professionals born or residing in the 8 Andalusian provinces, making a great commitment to equal opportunities, both in gender and geographical location.

Its presentation concert could not be otherwise than with the programme "Andalucía Sinfónica", on Andalusia Day, carried out in a didactic way before 1,400 elderly people from the province of Malaga. While it is preparing its first season with the support of important Andalusian institutions, and after its presentation at the Palacio de la Paz in Fuengirola, it has performed at the Teatro del Liceo in Barcelona and at the Nissan Cartuja in Seville and has been invited to the National Auditorium and Palau de la Música in Barcelona. **Victor Eloy López** is its chief and artistic director.



# Programme of the Parallel Concerts

## 19th JULY 22:30

Centre de Perfeccionament del Palau de les Arts

**Venue:** Conservatorio de Llíria

Reynaldo Hahn (1874-1947)  
*Venezia*

La primavera  
Rosa Dávila · Mariana Sofía · Carlos Reynoso

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart (1756-1791)  
*Hai già vinta la causa*, de *Le nozze di Figaro*  
Alejandro Sánchez

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart  
*Crudell, perché finora*, de *Le nozze di Figaro*  
Rosa Dávila · Alejandro Sánchez

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart  
*Vado, ma dove!*, KV 583  
Rosa Dávila

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart  
*Donne mie la fate a tanti*, de *Così fan tutte*  
Carlos Reynoso

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart  
*Smanie implacabili!*, de *Così fan tutte*  
Mariana Sofía

Gioachino Rossini (1792-1868)  
*Amore dolcemente*, de *La scala di seta*  
Carlos Reynoso

**Rosa Dávila**, soprano  
**Mariana Sofía**, mezzosoprano  
**Carlos Reynoso**, baritone  
**Alejandro Sánchez**, baritone  
**Ignacio Aparisi**, piano

Ruperto Chapí (1851-1909)  
*¿Por qué de mis ojos los tuyos retiras?*  
de *La Revoltosa*  
Rosa Dávila · Carlos Reynoso

Pablo Luna (1879-1942)  
*De España vengo*, de *El niño judío*  
Mariana Sofía

Federico Moreno Torroba (1891-1982)  
*En mi tierra extremeña*, de Luisa Fernanda  
Alejandro Sánchez · Mariana Sofía

Ernesto Lecuona (1896-1963)  
*Mulata infeliz*, de *María la O*  
Rosa Dávila

Jacinto Guerrero (1895-1951)  
*Mi aldea*, de *Los Gavilanes*  
Alejandro Sánchez

Gerónimo Giménez (1854-1923)  
*La tarántula*, de *La Tempranica*  
Mariana Sofía



## 20th JULY 22:30

Formación camerística de cuerda de la Orquesta de la Comunitat Valenciana

**Venue:** Conservatorio de Llíria

Ottorino Respighi (1879-1936)  
*Antiche arie e danze: Suite N° 3, P 172*  
I. Italiana  
II. Arie di corte  
III. Siciliana  
IV. Passacaglia

Miroslav Skoric (1938-2020)  
*Danza española* (para violín y cuerda)  
Roman Kholmatov, violín

Pablo Sarasate (1844-1908)  
*Navarra, Op. 33* (para dos violines y cuerda)  
Roman Svirlov y Marija Namanyte, violines

Edvard Grieg (1843-1907)  
*Suite Holberg, Op. 40*  
«Suite de la época de Holberg: Suite al estilo antiguo»  
I. Praeludium (Allegro vivace)  
II. Sarabande (Andante)  
III. Gavotte (Allegretto)  
IV. Air (Andante religioso)  
V. Rigaudon (Allegro con brio)

Isaac Albéniz (1860-1909)  
*Suite española, Op. 47*  
Asturias, N° 5  
Sevilla, N° 3



**21st JULY 19:30**

Festival de Bandas Juveniles 'Ciutat de Llíria 2023'

**Venue:** Teatro de la Unió Musical

## PART I

### **Banda Juvenil Unió Musical de Llíria**

J. Salvador González Romero  
*Pilar Sáez*

Jan Van Der Roost  
*Puszta: four gipsy dances*

B. Ulvaeus/ B. Andersson (Arr. Johan De Meij)  
*Highlights from chess*

**Director** Esteban Espinosa



## PART II

### **Banda Juvenil Primitiva de Llíria**

David Rivas  
*Diego Pérez*

Ferrer Ferran  
*Côte d'Or*

Andrew Lloyd Webber  
*El Fantasma de la Ópera*

**Director** Chano Silvestre



**LLÍRIA CITY OF MUSIC**  
INTERNATIONAL CONDUCTING COMPETITION

# THE **25 FINALISTS**

## II INTERNATIONAL CONDUCTING COMPETITION “**LLÍRIA CITY OF MUSIC**”

-  1. **Sieva Borzak**
-  2. **Lorena Escolar**
-  3. **Scott Gentile**
-  4. **Rafael Grau**
-  5. **Oren Gross-Thaler**
-  6. **Daniel Huertas Ferrer**
-  7. **Daniel Joseph**
-  8. **Hae Lee**
-  9. **Maximilian Leinekugel**
-  10. **Brian Liao**
-  11. **Chi-Yuan Lin**
-  12. **Alexander Marinesku**
-  13. **Daniel Martínez Hermoso**
-  14. **Jakub Montewka**
-  15. **Clément Nonciaux**
-  16. **Riku Okamoto**
-  17. **Marcel Ortega i Martí**
-  18. **Fernando Palomeque**
-  19. **Pablo Pegalajar**
-  20. **Eros Quesada**
-  21. **Bernat Quetglas**
-  22. **Daniel Ros Hernández**
-  23. **Sasha Scolnik-Brower**
-  24. **Tatsuma Takahashi**
-  25. **Clara Wagsteiner**

**INFO:**

[www.lliriacityofmusic.es](http://www.lliriacityofmusic.es)  
[www.aesdo.com](http://www.aesdo.com)



# LLÍRIA CITY OF MUSIC

INTERNATIONAL CONDUCTING COMPETITION

## ORGANIZERS:



## SPONSORS:



## CONTRIBUTORS:

