

## KRISTIAN ALEXANDER

*short biography*

Mr. Kristian Alexander is the founding Music Director and Principal Conductor of the Kindred Spirits Orchestra, the founding Music Director of the International Music Academy and the founding Artistic Director of Markham Contemporary Music Festival. He was also the founding Music Director of the Mozarteum Symphony Orchestra in Sofia (Bulgaria), the first privately own art organization in Eastern Europe dedicated to the performing and recording of compositions by Mozart. Mr. Kristian Alexander conducted Cairo Symphony Orchestra, *Internationale Bach-Collegium* and *Gächinger Kantorei* in Stuttgart, the *Mozarteum* Symphony Orchestra in Sofia and the *Windsor Symphony Orchestra*, the *Opéra de Montréal Orchestra*, the *Royal Conservatory of Music Symphony Orchestra* (Toronto), *Oakville Chamber Orchestra*, *Guelph Symphony Orchestra*, *Etobicoke Philharmonic Orchestra*, *Vaughan Symphony Orchestra* in Canada.

Mr. Kristian Alexander has worked with internationally renowned conductors Charles Dutoit, Gustav Meier, Marin Alsop, Helmuth Rilling, John Morris Russell, Nurhan Arman, David Agler, and Nedialko Nedialkov. He also collaborated with soloists Christina Quilico, Ann Hobson Pilot, Jacques Israelievitch, James Parker and André Laplante. He recorded several live concerts for the *International Bachakademie* (Stuttgart), the National Radio Broadcasting Company and the National Television of Bulgaria. Mr. Kristian Alexander conducted in many major concert halls in Europe, Africa and Canada: Cairo Opera House, Roy Thompson Hall, Ettore Mazzoleni Hall and the CBC Glenn Gould Studio in Toronto, *Lieder Halle* in Stuttgart, Bulgaria Hall and the National Palace of culture in Sofia, among others.

Since the beginning of his tenure as Music Director of the Kindred Spirits Orchestra in 2009, Mr. Kristian Alexander has performed a vast repertoire that includes Beethoven's, Brahms', Mendelssohn's and Schumann's symphonies as well as all major instrumental concerti by Haydn, Mozart, Beethoven, Brahms, Mendelssohn, Tchaikovsky, Chopin, Grieg, Schuman, Sibelius, and Saint-Saëns. In 2011, Mr. Alexander and the Kindred Spirits Orchestra has forged an important artistic partnership with the creation of Markham Contemporary Music Festival, an annual event that has brought to life great pieces of the 20th century, including Lutoslavsky's Symphonic Variations, Stravinsky's Symphony No. 1, Philip Glass' Concerto for violin and orchestra No. 1, Honegger's *Pastoral d'été* and others. Mr. Kristian Alexander is also avid supporter of Canadian contemporary music, having performed with the Kindred Spirits Orchestra compositions by Garry Kulesha, Brian Current, Larysa Kuzmenko, Daniel Friedman, Kevin Lau, James Campbell, and Constantine Caravassilis. Maestro Alexander has also given the Canadian première of John Williams' "On Willows and Birches" and the world première of James Campbell's Concerto for harp and orchestra.

Mr. Kristian Alexander speaks fluently English, French, Russian, and Bulgarian and has a working knowledge of Italian, German, Czech, Latin, Greek, and Hebrew languages. In addition to master degrees in orchestral and choral conducting, music theory and history, he also holds degrees in anthropology, psychology, theology, and arts management from academies and universities in Toronto, Montreal, Stuttgart and Sofia. Mr. Kristian Alexander has also been a mentor for many young musicians and conductors through various positions he held at the International Baccalaureate Organization in England, the New Bulgarian University in Sofia, as well as, in Canada, at the *Atelier Lyrique de l'Opéra de Montréal*, the International Music Academy, the International Bilingual School, the Weldon Park Academy and the London French School. He has also published articles on philosophy of music in major scientific journals and research papers for the Bulgarian Academy of Science, the University of Toronto and the Université de Montréal. Mr. Kristian Alexander has been a recipient of several awards from the Canada Arts Council, London City Council, Université de Montréal, *Internationale Bachakademie* (Stuttgart), the *Mozarteum Internationale Stiftung* (Salzburg), Open Society Foundation (New York), *Pro Helvetia* Foundation (Bern) and the National Music Academy (Sofia).

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*press quotes and endorsements*

"Maestro Alexander's interpretation was inspiring, carefully crafted and paced, sensitive and balanced, with beautiful lyrical expression and dramatic depth." **Ahram**, Cairo

"Maestro Alexander maintained an exquisite balance between the soloist and orchestra, in turn discrete, supportive or cooperative." **Ahram**, Cairo

"Maestro Alexander's inspiring command of the orchestra produced a rich pallet of colourful sound that highlighted the unique style of each composer." **Al Messa**, Cairo

"Il Maestro Kristian Alexander ha diretto in maniera impeccabile." **Courriere Canadese**

"Inspiring conductor with strong discipline and attention to every detail – qualities that bring great classical pieces from all genres and styles to life." **Markham Life**

"Maestro Alexander is a wonderful musician with a strong vision and great practical knowledge about the orchestra. He can get the right sound, the right style... I've enjoyed our collaboration a great deal." **André Laplante**, pianist

"Kristian Alexander is a remarkable conductor. As a soloist, I had the freedom to play knowing that he and the orchestra are always there for me." **Christina Petrowska-Quilico**, pianist

"Kristian Alexander provides with finely balanced leadership that brings together a detail-oriented approach with inspiration for his fellow musicians."

**Jacques Israelievitch**, violinist, former Concertmaster of the Toronto Symphony Orchestra

"Mr. Alexander's expressive manner to conduct inspired the orchestra immensely." **Nurhan Arman**, Music director of *Sinfonia Toronto*, Music director of *Symphony New Brunswick*.

"I was impressed with Mr. Alexander's excellent conducting technique and his keen sense of ensemble and balance. He also brought a high degree of musicianship and knowledge of historical style on the podium. "

**Dr. Phillip C. Posey**, Conductor, Liberty symphony orchestra, Missouri.

"The inspired, detailed interpretation, along with a passionate playing, brought to the forefront by Maestro Kristian Alexander, was excellent." **Daniel Friedman**, composer

"As an assistant Orchestra conductor and Chorus master, Mr Alexander displayed many interesting resources." **Bernard Uzan**, Artistic and general director, Opera of Montreal.

"Mr. Alexander gave coaching for interpretation in the repertoire of opera and art songs. His work was very valuable. We have greatly appreciated his multiple competences."

**Chantal Lambert**, Programme Director, Opera of Montreal.

"Mr. Kristian A. Alexander conducted the Gächinger Kantorei and Bach-Collegium Stuttgart with great enthusiasm." **Dr. Helmuth Rilling**, Music director of the *Internationale Bach-Collegium* and the *Gächinger Kantorei*, Stuttgart.

"The "Mozarteum" symphony orchestra conducted by Mr. Kristian A. Alexander demonstrated a profound sensitivity towards the Mozart style and interpretation."

**Dr. Nedialko Nedialkov**, Conductor, Opera of Sofia.