KRISTIAN ALEXANDER

b i o g r a p h y

Kristian Alexander conducted over 500 orchestral and operatic works in major concert halls in Europe, Asia, Africa and Canada: Koerner Hall, Meridian Hall, Roy Thompson Hall, Ettore Mazzoleni Hall and the CBC Glenn Gould Studio in Toronto, Lieder Halle in Stuttgart, Cairo Opera House, Hong Kong City Concert Hall, National Opera of Romania, as well as Bulgaria Hall and the National Palace of culture in Sofia.

Kristian Alexander is the Music Director and Principal Conductor of the Kindred Spirits Orchestra (Toronto), the Music Director and Principal Conductor of the Orion Symphony Orchestra (Toronto), the Music Director of the International Music Academy (Toronto), the Artistic Director of Markham Contemporary Music Festival and the Artistic Director of the International Music Festival and Competition (Toronto).

Kristian Alexander has conducted the *Sanremo Symphony Orchestra* and *Orchestra del Teatro Cilea* in Italy, the *Internationale Bach-Collegium* and *Gächinger Kantorei* in Germany, *Cairo Symphony Orchestra*, Hong Kong Oratorio Society and Orchestra, the National Opera of Romania, the *National Teleradio Symphony Orchestra of Moldova, Lutosławski Philharmonic Orchestra* and *Malawski Philharmonic Orchestra* in Poland, *and Kindred Spirits Orchestra, Windsor Symphony Orchestra*, the *Opéra de Montréal Orchestra*, *the Royal Conservatory of Music Symphony Orchestra* in Toronto, the *Oakville Chamber Orchestra*, *Guelph Symphony Orchestra*, *Etobicoke Philharmonic Orchestra*, *Vaughan Symphony Orchestra, Vancouver Oratorio Society, Toronto Classical Singers*, the *Mozarteum* Symphony Orchestra and the Sofia Philharmonic Orchestra.

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 André Laplante, Christina Petrowska-Quilico, Jacques Israelievitch, Ann Hobson Pilot, James Parker, Lorenzo di Bella, Antonio Di Cristofano, Giulio Tampalini. He recorded several live concerts for the *International Bachakademie* (Stuttgart), the National Radio Broadcasting Company and the National Television of Bulgaria. Kristian Alexander conducted in many major concert halls in Europe, Canada and the Middle East: Roy Thompson Hall, Sony Centre for the Performing Arts, Ettore Mazzoleni Hall and the CBC Glenn Gould Studio in Toronto, *Lieder Halle* in Stuttgart, Cairo Opera House, Hong Kong City Concert Hall, Bulgaria Hall and the National Palace of culture in Sofia, among others.

Kristian Alexander has given the Canadian and the world premières of several contemporary works by John Williams, Garry Kulesha, Brian Current, Larysa Kuzmenko, Daniel Friedman, Kevin Lau, James Campbell, Constantine Caravassilis, Heather Schmidt, Chan Wing-Wah, Erik Kreem, Werner Chan and others. In 2025, Kristian Alexander and the Gryphon Trio gave the world première of a Concerto for piano trio and orchestra by Garry Kulesha. In 2023, he gave the world première of "Ukrainian Rhapsody" by Alexander Rosenblatt. Kristian Alexander also gave the Canadian première of internationally acclaimed composer John Williams' "On Willows and Birches", the world premières of James Campbell's Concerto for harp and orchestra and Chan Wing-Wah's "Phoenix Dance" as well as the North-American première of Chan Wing-Wah's Symphony No. 9 for soloists, choir and orchestra. In 2017, Maestro Alexander conducted a sold-out performance at the 3,200-seat Sony Centre for the Performing Arts in downtown Toronto of the first international concert-tribute to the Oscar-winning composer A.R. Rahman. In 2018, he made a highly acclaimed Asian début with the Hong Kong Oratorio Society and Orchestra, which he returned to conduct in 2023 as well.

In 2021, Kristian Alexander implemented for a first time in Canada an eco-conscious digital music library platform that permanently replaced paper-based operations with iPad Pro tablets made available to all musicians of the Kindred Spirits Orchestra. This project has substantially reduced the orchestra's carbon footprint and was awarded by the Government of Canada and the Government of Ontario.

In 2019, Kristian Alexander founded the International Music Festival and Competition, a charitable organization that has for a mission to provide young musicians with opportunities to perform, to conduct and to write music, while receiving professional guidance in collaboration with leading experts in the classical music industry from the University of Toronto and York University, the Toronto Symphony Orchestra, the Canadian Opera Company, the National Ballet of Canada, the Royal Conservatory of Music and the Glenn Gould Professional School.

In 2011, Kristian Alexander founded the Markham Contemporary Music Festival, a charitable organization that promotes the performance by local artists of music written worldwide in the 20th and the 21st centuries by Canadian, Indigenous, American, Asian, and European composers and includes lectures and seminars in both English and French, workshops, master-classes, pre-concert chats, intermission discussions, post-concert receptions, documentary films about the life of contemporary composers, and networking events.

In recognition of his musicianship, Kristian Alexander was elected for six consecutive years to represent Canada on the Board of Directors of the International Conductors Guild (2002-2008), as well as at the London Arts Council (1999-2001), and the Southern Ontario Music Chamber Institute (2004-2006). In 2006 he was invited to moderate in New York City a highly acclaimed panel with conductors from the Juilliard School, Pierre Monteux School for Conductors, and Eastman School of Music. In 2007, he was appointed advisor of the Conductors Guild international workshop for conductors led by renowned Maestro Jorma Panula (Finland) and Maestro Raffi Armenian (Canada). In 2007 as well, he was appointed Chair of the first International conference for conductors in Toronto.

A dedicated pedagogue, Kristian Alexander has also been on the faculty of several educational institutions, both in Canada and abroad. Since 2005, he has taught conducting and advanced interpretation at the International Music Academy and since 2003 he has been consultant in music education at the International Baccalaureate Organization (London, England). In addition, he has also taught modern languages and interpretation at the *Atelier lyrique de l'Opéra de Montréal* and instrumental music at the Canadian Conservatory for Music and Arts and at the Weldon Park Academy (London).

Since 2000, Kristian Alexander has given over a 1,000 bursaries and scholarships to neurodiverse children, youth-at-risk, children with disabilities, and children in low-income families, to help them learning a musical instrument. In 2015, he also donated a grand piano and a 2-manual organ to the remote community of the Easter Island. These musical instruments, travelling 36,000 km by sea, arrived in 2016 for the inauguration of the first music school in the history of this distinct society. Kristian Alexander has also been a supporter of Orchestra Canada, American Federation of Musicians, American Symphony Orchestra League, Conductors Guild, Friends of Glenn Gould Society, and *Interkulturelle Gesellschaft* (Switzerland). In 2026, Kristian Alexander was awarded an honorary Doctor of Letters (D.Litt.) by York University in Toronto, the university's highest distinction.

In 1997, Kristian Alexander was invited as an assistant orchestra and choir conductor for several presentations of the opera Jenůfa (L. Janáček) at the *Opéra de Montréal*. The performance was outstanding and has been praised by the critics as "one of the best productions in the history of the Opera of Montreal" (Robert Markow, Le Magazine de la Place des Arts, Montreal, Quebec, 2000). During the same years Kristian Alexander was also a voice consultant for several internationally acclaimed actors and actresses in Quebec, such as Louise Marleau, Marc Béland, and Pierre Collins.

Kristian Alexander speaks 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 holds degrees in anthropology, psychology, theology, and arts management from academies and universities in Toronto, Montreal, Stuttgart and Sofia. He has also been a recipient of several awards from the Canada Arts Council, London City Council, L'Université de Montréal, *Internationale Bachakademie* (Stuttgart), the *Mozarteum Internationale Stiftung* (Salzburg), Open Society Foundation (New York), and the National Music Academy (Sofia).

Kristian Alexander is also the author of three research papers: *"Le Magnificat: trois lecture musicales. L'interprétation de la symbolique et de la forme textuelle dans les Magnificat de H. Schütz, de J. S. Bach et de W. A. Mozart"* (for the Université de Montréal, 2005), *"Utah Symphony and Utah Opera: a merger proposal"* (for the University of Toronto, 2004), and *"Mozart's Davide penitente KV 469: Philosophical, aesthetics, formal, and conducting analysis"* (for the National Academy of Music, Sofia, 1994). He is also the author of two publications in major scientific journals: *"Typology of the form of the compositions for magnificat"* (Institute of musicology of the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences, Sofia, v. 1, 1997) and *"Energetic interactions between music text and sound: etude on philosophy of music"* (Institute of philosophical research of the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences, Sofia, v. 3, 1996).

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