Kristian Alexander

Kristian Alexander has conducted more than 500 orchestral and operatic works in major concert halls across Europe, Asia, Africa and Canada, including Koerner Hall, Meridian Hall, Roy Thomson Hall, Ettore Mazzoleni Hall and the CBC Glenn Gould Studio in Toronto; Liederhalle in Stuttgart; Cairo Opera House; Hong Kong City Hall Concert Hall; the National Opera of Romania; Bulgaria Hall; and the National Palace of Culture in Sofia. In 2026, he was awarded an honorary Doctor of Letters (D.Litt.) by York University in Toronto, the university's highest distinction.

Kristian Alexander is the Music Director and Principal Conductor of the Kindred Spirits Orchestra (Toronto) and the Orion Symphony Orchestra (Toronto), the Music Director of the International Music Academy (Toronto), and the Artistic Director of the Markham Contemporary Music Festival and 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 Southern Arizona Symphony Orchestra in the USA; the National Opera of Romania; the National Teleradio Symphony Orchestra of Moldova; Lutosławski Philharmonic Orchestra and Malawski Philharmonic Orchestra in Poland; Kindred Spirits Orchestra; Windsor Symphony Orchestra; Opéra de Montréal Orchestra; Royal Conservatory of Music Symphony Orchestra in Toronto; Oakville Chamber Orchestra; Guelph Symphony Orchestra; Etobicoke Philharmonic Orchestra; Vaughan Symphony Orchestra; Vancouver Oratorio Society; Toronto Classical Singers; Mozarteum Symphony Orchestra; and Sofia Philharmonic Orchestra.

He has worked with internationally renowned conductors Charles Dutoit, Gustav Meier, Marin Alsop, Helmuth Rilling, John Morris Russell, Nurhan Arman, David Agler and Nedialko Nedialkov. His collaborations with distinguished soloists include André Laplante, Christina Petrowska-Quilico, Jacques Israelievitch, Ann Hobson Pilot, James Parker, Lorenzo di Bella, Antonio Di Cristofano and Giulio Tampalini.

Kristian Alexander has recorded several live concerts for the International Bachakademie in Stuttgart, the National Radio Broadcasting Company and the National Television of Bulgaria. A strong advocate of contemporary music, Kristian Alexander has conducted Canadian and world premières of 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 other composers.

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 conducted the world première of *Ukrainian Rhapsody* by Alexander Rosenblatt. His other notable premières include the Canadian première of John Williams' internationally acclaimed *On Willows and Birches*; the world premières of James Campbell's Concerto for Harp and Orchestra and Chan Wing-Wah's *Phoenix Dance*; and 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, presenting the first international concert tribute to Oscar-winning composer A.R. Rahman. In 2018, he made a highly acclaimed Asian début with the Hong Kong Oratorio Society and Orchestra, returning to conduct the ensemble in 2023.

In 2021, Kristian Alexander implemented, for the 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 initiative substantially reduced the orchestra's carbon footprint and received awards from the Government of Canada and the Government of Ontario.

In 2019, Kristian Alexander founded the International Music Festival and Competition, a charitable organization dedicated to providing young musicians with opportunities to perform, conduct and compose while receiving professional guidance. Its educational and artistic activities are developed 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, he founded the Markham Contemporary Music Festival, a charitable organization promoting performances by local artists of music written worldwide during the 20th and 21st centuries by Canadian, Indigenous, American, Asian and European composers. Its programming includes lectures and seminars in both English and French, workshops, masterclasses, pre-concert chats, intermission discussions, post-concert receptions, documentary films about the lives of contemporary composers and networking events.

In recognition of his musicianship, Kristian Alexander was elected for six consecutive years (2002–2008) to represent Canada on the Board of Directors of the International Conductors Guild. He also served at the London Arts Council (1999–2001) and the Southern Ontario Music Chamber Institute (2004–2006).

In 2006, he was invited to moderate a highly acclaimed panel in New York City featuring conductors from the Juilliard School, the Pierre Monteux School for Conductors and the Eastman School of Music. In 2007, he was appointed advisor to the Conductors Guild international workshop for conductors led by renowned maestros Jorma Panula (Finland) and Raffi Armenian (Canada). That same year, he was appointed Chair of the first International Conference for Conductors in Toronto.

A dedicated pedagogue, Kristian Alexander has served on the faculty of several educational institutions in Canada and abroad. Since 2005, he has taught conducting and advanced interpretation at the International Music Academy. Since 2003, he has also served as a consultant in music education for the International Baccalaureate Organization in London, England. His other teaching appointments have included modern languages and interpretation at the Atelier lyrique de l'Opéra de Montréal, as well as instrumental music at the Canadian Conservatory for Music and Arts and Weldon Park Academy in London.

Since 2000, Kristian Alexander has provided more than 1,000 bursaries and scholarships to neurodiverse children, youth at risk, children with disabilities and children from low-income families, helping them learn to play musical instruments.

In 2015, he donated a grand piano and a two-manual organ to the remote community of Easter Island. The instruments travelled 36,000 kilometres by sea and arrived in 2016 for the inauguration of the first music school in the history of this distinct society.

He has also supported Orchestra Canada, the American Federation of Musicians, the American Symphony Orchestra League, the Conductors Guild, the Friends of Glenn Gould Society and Interkulturelle Gesellschaft (Switzerland).

In 1997, Kristian Alexander was invited to serve as an assistant orchestra and choir conductor for several performances of Leoš Janáček's opera *Jenůfa* at the Opéra de Montréal. The production received outstanding reviews and was described by critic Robert Markow as “one of the best productions in the history of the Opera of Montreal” (*Le Magazine de la Place des Arts*, Montreal, Quebec, 2000).

During the same period, Kristian Alexander also worked as a voice consultant for several internationally acclaimed actors and actresses in Quebec, including Louise Marleau, Marc Béland and Pierre Collins.

Kristian Alexander holds master's degrees in orchestral and choral conducting, as well as music theory and history. His academic qualifications also include degrees in anthropology, psychology, theology and arts management, obtained from academies and universities in Toronto, Montreal, Stuttgart and Sofia. He speaks English, French, Russian and Bulgarian, and has a working knowledge of Italian, German, Czech, Latin, Greek and Hebrew.

He is the author of three research papers: *Le Magnificat: trois lectures 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* (Université de Montréal, 2005); *Utah Symphony and Utah Opera: A Merger Proposal* (University of Toronto, 2004); *Mozart’s Davide penitente KV 469: Philosophical, Aesthetic, Formal, and Conducting Analysis* (National Academy of Music, Sofia, 1994). He has also published two articles in major scientific journals: *Typology of the Form of the Compositions for Magnificat* (Institute of Musicology, Bulgarian Academy of Sciences, Sofia, Vol. 1, 1997); *Energetic Interactions between Music Text and Sound: Étude on Philosophy of Music* (Institute of Philosophical Research, Bulgarian Academy of Sciences, Sofia, Vol. 3, 1996).

Throughout his career, Kristian Alexander has received awards and distinctions from the Canada Arts Council, London City Council, L’Université de Montréal, the Internationale Bachakademie (Stuttgart), the Mozarteum Internationale Stiftung (Salzburg), the Open Society Foundation (New York) and the National Music Academy (Sofia).

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KRISTIAN ALEXANDER
PRESS QUOTES

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***

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.

I was impressed by Mr. Alexander's ability to convey his interpretation of the music to the orchestra. His approach to the score was logical, and his musicianship unquestionable. - **Adil S. Mehta**, Conductor, California Chamber Ensemble, Los Angeles.

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

The "Mozarteum" symphony orchestra conducted by Mr. Kristian Alexander demonstrated a profound sensitivity towards the Mozart style and interpretation. - **Dr. Nedialko Nedialkov**, Conductor, Opera of Sofia.