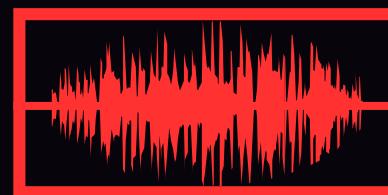




**ORCHESTRA SIMFONICĂ
BUCUREȘTI**



BUCHAREST
CONDUCTING ACADEMY

Edition VI / MMXXIV

Bucharest, July 10-19, 2024

"Take the Tchaikovsky Challenge:
Perfecting Your Podium Performance" with
John Axelrod & Bucharest Symphony
Orchestra, in Bucharest, Romania,

Masterclass Students Gala Concert, and the

Bucharest International Competition with
Bucharest Symphony Orchestra &

Winners Awards Gala Concert at Romanian
Athenaeum





John Axelrod

This July 10-19, I once again serve as conducting professor of the Bucharest Conducting Academy Bucharest International Conducting Masterclass, 2024 and President of the Jury of the Bucharest International Conducting Competition with the Orchestra Simfonică București - Bucharest Symphony Orchestra, of which I am Principal Conductor. This year we dare you to take the Tchaikovsky Challenge and Perfect Your Podium Performance. For this 6th edition, all participants will have maximum podium time and more opportunity to conduct this core repertoire. Much of Tchaikovsky's major works are featured: The Serenade for Strings, Rome and Juliet, Piano Concerto 1, Polonaise from the opera Eugene Onegin and of course the Symphony No. 6, "Pathétique."

Tchaikovsky said of this final symphonic work: "I am already thinking of a new large composition, that is, of a symphony with a secret program." He entitled the work "The Passionate Symphony", employing a Russian word, ПАТЭТИЧЕСКАЯ (Pateticheskaya), meaning "passionate" or "emotional", which was then translated into French as pathétique, meaning "solemn" or "emotive".

After a failed start with an E flat Symphony which later became his 3rd Piano Concerto, in 1893, Tchaikovsky finally was inspired to make another attempt at his "Grand Symphony.". He wrote to his nephew Davydov: "I had the idea for another symphony, this time with a programme, but such a programme that will remain an enigma to everyone—let them guess; the symphony shall be entitled: A Programme Symphony (No. 6); Symphonie à Programme (No. 6); Programm-Symphonie (No. 6). "

What is that secret program? That enigma? Is it a Requiem? Pushkin was not the only influence on Tchaikovsky's imagination. Shakespeare had an indelible impact on his compositional output. There is a famous line that rings loudly when considering this work: At a time when he suffered immensely from moral indignation, poor health and societal pressure, these words from Hamlet take on a deeper meaning:

"Devoutly to be wish'd. To die, to sleep; To sleep, perchance to dream—For in that sleep of death what dreams may come, When we have shuffled off this mortal coil, Must give us pause, there's the respect, That makes calamity of so long life"

As a student of Ilya Music and Leonard Bernstein, I learned from the best. I have conducted this work over 20 times with orchestras around the world. Let me share what wisdom I have gained. We will explore this and more in Bucharest. We welcome you and look forward to a meaningful musical collaboration.

Yours, John



John Axelrod

Music Director, Swiss National Orchestra
 Principal Conductor, Bucharest Symphony
 Orchestra, Romania

"John Axelrod is a highly imaginative and dynamic musician, whose rich musicological background and historical insights combine with intellectual drive and charismatic enthusiasm for people and for life, to get probing, rigorous and richly characterized interpretations." Remy Franck, Pizzicato

With over a quarter century of experience conducting nearly 200 orchestras worldwide, John Axelrod has established a visible profile as one of today's leading international conductors. His extraordinarily diverse repertoire, from core classics, both orchestral and operatic, to contemporary to crossover, his innovative programming themes, musical depth and charismatic performance style have been widely praised and recognised by both audiences and critics. In 2020, Maestro Axelrod received the Special Achievement Award from the International Classical Music Awards for his outstanding contributions and interpretations. Season 2023-2024 begins with two important events in his career trajectory: As a newly naturalised citizen of Switzerland, Maestro Axelrod has been named in August 2023 the Music Director of the Swiss National Orchestra, with a government sanctioned mission statement committed to promoting the excellence of Swiss musicians and composers with tours, recordings and special projects. And in September 2023 comes an exceptionally special recording with the Bucharest Symphony Orchestra, released on Orchid Classics and distributed by Naxos, featuring the two versions of Robert Schumann's Symphony 4, op. 120. Entitled Schumann 41/51: Florestan and Eusebius, Maestro Axelrod explores how Robert Schumann's bi-polar disorder influenced the original and revised versions of this beloved work which provides a compelling reason for the first time in recorded discography that both are released on the same recording. Maestro Axelrod continues his over a decade long love story with Japan, returning this October and November to both the Tokyo Metropolitan Symphony, the Orchestra Ensemble Kanazawa and the Hyogo Performing Arts Center Orchestra, and making his debut with the Sendai Philharmonic to perform "The Samurai of Seville," a double concerto for flamenco guitar, Japanese koto and narrator in both Japanese and Spanish, composed by José Maria Gallardo del Rey and based on the novel by John J. Healey, about the 1615 historical voyage of 12 Samurai from Sendai to Seville. Maestro Axelrod commissioned the work in 2019 and premiered it in 2021 with the City of Kyoto Symphony Orchestra, with whom he was Principal Guest Conductor. Mr. Axelrod will also teach a conducting masterclass at the Tokyo Conservatory, continuing his absolute commitment to educating and developing the next generation of conductors and young musicians.

In 2020, during the pandemic, Maestro Axelrod created CMO: Conductors Masterclass Online, and will be presenting from September through December 2023 a Great Maestros Masterclass Online Series, featuring such great maestros as Leonard Slatkin and Frédéric Chaslin, with more confirmed for 2024. In July, 2024, Maestro Axelrod will again serve for the 3rd time as President of the Jury of the Bucharest Music Institute International Masterclass and Competition for Conductors.

Maestro Axelrod also returns twice to open the 23-24 season of the Romanian Radio Orchestra with an all Rachmaninov program and again in February with Brahms, and continues his long relationship with the Belgrade Philharmonic, also returning twice this season with Bartok and Korngold. Other upcoming season highlights include his annual returns to the Orchestra Sinfonica di Milano in January 2024, of which he was Principal Guest Conductor, with the full ballet of The Firebird by Stravinsky, and as the conductor of the RAI Pops with the Orchestra Sinfonica Nazionale della RAI in Torino in June. Other important engagements include his debut with the Jerusalem Symphony Orchestra in an October 2023 tour to Hanoi and in Israel in January 2024 and the Wallonian Chamber Orchestra in February, and returns to the orchestras of South Netherlands, Cagliari and Palermo, among others.

Among his many other titles, Maestro Axelrod was unanimously elected in 2022 as the Principal Conductor of the Bucharest Symphony Orchestra, with a unique open-ended contract. From 2018-2023, Maestro Axelrod became the Principal Guest Conductor of the City of Kyoto Symphony Orchestra. From 2014-2020, Maestro Axelrod was the Artistic and Musical Director of the Real Orquesta Sinfónica de Sevilla. Other titled positions included Principal Guest Conductor of Orchestra Sinfonica di Milano from 2011-2018, Principal Conductor of the Pacific Music Festival from 2016-2018, Music Director of the NHK Jazz at the Metropolitan Theater from 2014-2016, Music Director of the l'Orchestre National des Pays de la Loire from 2009-2013, Music Director of "Hollywood in Vienna" with the ORF Vienna Radio Orchestra from 2009-2011, Music Director and Chief Conductor of the Lucerne Symphony Orchestra and Theater from 2004-2009, as First Conductor of Sinfonietta Cracovia from 2001-2009 and as Founder and Artistic Director of his hometown Houston's OrchestraX from 1997-2003.

Among his many other relationships, invitations and recordings with orchestras include Berlin's Radio Symphony Orchestra, NDR Symphony Hamburg (ElbePhilharmonie), Leipzig Gewandhaus Orchester, Filarmonica della Scala,, Teatro La Fenice Orchestra in Venice, Orchestre de Paris, NHK Symphony Orchestra, Danish Radio Symphony Orchestra, Prague Radio Symphony Orchestra, Camerata Salzburg and the Mozarteum Orchester Salzburg, among others. In the USA, Mr. Axelrod has conducted the Chicago Symphony, Los Angeles Philharmonic and the Philadelphia Orchestra among others. Maestro Axelrod debuted in 2018 to great acclaim with the Bavarian Radio Symphony Orchestra and returned with the Philharmonia Orchestra UK in Teatro alla Scala for the MITO Festival 2022. Other important regular festival engagements include the Enescu, Salzburg, Lucerne, Montreux Jazz, and the Schleswig Holstein.

John Axelrod's important opera activity includes Bernstein's Candide at Théâtre du Châtelet, Teatro alla Scala and Maggio Musicale Fiorentino, Eugene Onegin at Teatro San Carlo in Naples, and Kurt Weill's Aufstieg und Fall der Stadt Mahagonny at the Rome Opera, and Martinu's Mirandolina at Teatro la Fenice. For the Lucerne Festival, he conducted: Rigoletto, The Rake's Progress, Don Giovanni, the Three Penny Opera, Falstaff and Idomeneo. Maestro Axelrod conducted Gianni Schicchi to open the 2020 Puccini Festival and returned in 2021 to conduct a new production of Turandot, directed by Daniele Abbado.

Mr. Axelrod has recorded core and contemporary repertoire for Sony Classical, Warner Classics, Ondine, Universal, Naïve and Nimbus, and released a cycle of Brahms Symphonies with the Orchestra Sinfonica di Milano Giuseppe Verdi, entitled Brahms Beloved on Telarc, produced by Grammy winner Michael Fine.

Actively committed to working with young professional musicians for over two decades, Mr. Axelrod has toured with the Schleswig Holstein Festival Orchestra to the Salzburg Festival, the Santander Orchestra and the Sinfonia Iuventus in Poland, the Orchestra Giovanile Italiana in Italy, the Accademia della Scala to Muscat, the NordDeutsche Junge Philharmonie in Germany and the Vienna Jeunesse Orchester in Austria.

Mr. Axelrod graduated in 1988 from Harvard University. Trained personally by Leonard Bernstein in 1982, he also studied at the St. Petersburg Conservatory with Ilya Musin in 1996 and was mentored by Christoph Eschenbach from 1997 until 2000 when we made his professional debut as assistant conductor for Parisfal at the Bayreuth Festival.

“Take the Tchaikovsky Challenge: Perfecting Your Podium Performance” Masterclass with John Axelrod & Bucharest Symphony Orchestra, in Bucharest, Romania

Bucharest Conducting Academy (BCA) provides the best experience in Romania with the required resources that helps the aspiring masters of orchestral direction to achieve their goal, to learn how to conduct an orchestra. And much more.

Attending our Masterclass you will learn how to develop the essential technique and proper skills and furthermore, the necessary support for a career in orchestral conducting.



July 10-15, 2024, the general meeting concerning the Masterclass information and welcome ceremony is scheduled for July 10 @ 7pm.

Application deadline: June 15, 2024

All ages, active, beginner, passive students are welcome. Only 25 active students are allowed. The participants must provide their own scores, available on IMSLP.

Location

Sala Gloria - Strada Bucovina 6, București, Sector 3, Romania. The hall is located in near the Titan Park.

Masterclass Repertoire

The Masterclass will be held in English/French.

Tchaikovsky “Romeo & Juliet” Fantasy Overture - Leipzig: Eulenburg, No.675
 Tchaikovsky Serenade for String Orchestra, Op.48, 1st movement - Leipzig: Ernst Eulenburg, No.857
 Tchaikovsky Polonaise Eugene Onegin, Op. 24 - Moscow: P. Jurgenson, n.d.[1880].
 Tchaikovsky Piano Concerto No. 1, Opus 23 - no soloist - New York: E.F. Kalmus
 Tchaikovsky Symphony no. 6 - Download from IMSLP - Publisher Info. Leipzig: Breitkopf & Härtel, Reprinted Kalmus
 All movements

Schedule

Welcome ceremony July 10, 7pm, Sala Gloria

Daily schedule

- Podium time for active students Orchestra - 4 times x 10 min.
- String quartet - 4 times x 5 min.
- “Take the Tchaikovsky Challenge: Perfecting Your Podium Performance” Masterclass daily seminar with John Axelrod
- Student performance video analysis

JULY 15 - Masterclass Students Gala Concert

Based on the orchestra votes, the active students that attended will conduct the Bucharest Symphony at Sala Gloria with the same repertoire learned in the Masterclass.

Sorry, phones are not allowed in the session and neither spouse/friends. Students are not allowed to film the Masterclass sessions, either by phone or by any video / audio recording equipment. An official copy of your performance sessions is available for 50 EUR / student (optional).

International Competition with Bucharest Symphony Orchestra & Winners Awards Gala Concert



July 15-18, 2024 - Welcome ceremony on July 15 at 07:00 pm at Sala Gloria - information about competition - the draw of lots.

Application deadline:
July 5, 2024

Location

Sala Gloria - Strada Bucovina 6, București, Sector 3, Romania. The hall is located in near the Titan Park.

Award Gala Concert

The Competition features a Awards Gala Concert for the winning conductors that will take place at the prestigious Romanian Athenaeum.

Competition Repertoire

The Competition repertoire will be divided by rounds, accordingly:

1st round: All candidates

Overtures
 Tchaikovsky “Romeo & Juliet” Fantasy Overture Ed. Leipzig: Eulenburg, No.675
 Tchaikovsky Serenade for String Orchestra, Op.48, 1st movement Leipzig: Eulenburg, No.857
 Tchaikovsky Polonaise Eugene Onegin, Op. 24 Moscow: P. Jurgenson

2nd round Semi-final - up to 15 candidates

Accompaniment
 Tchaikovsky Piano Concerto No. 1, Opus 23 soloist: Soloist Eva Gareth
 Edition -Leipzig: Breitkopf & Härtel, n.d. (ca.1880). New York: E.F. Kalmus, n.d.(1965)

3rd round The Final - up to 6 candidates

Symphony
 Tchaikovsky Symphony no. 6
 Ed. Leipzig: Breitkopf & Härtel, n.d.(1945). Plate Part.B. 495, Kalmus
 All movements

The participants must provide their own scores.

Competition Schedule

July 16
 10:00-13:00 / 14:00-17:00 1st round
 18:00 announcement

July 17
 10:00-14:00 *The Semi-final - up to 15 candidates*
 15:00 announcement

July 18
 10:00-13:00 *The Final - up to 6 candidates*
 14:00 announcement

July 19
 19:30-22:00 Awards Gala Concert with BSO

Concert program

Tchaikovsky Polonaise Eugene Onegin, Op. 24 - Awarded to 3rd prize

Tchaikovsky Piano Concerto No. 1, Opus 23 - Soloist: Eva Gareth - Awarded to 2nd prize

Pause

Tchaikovsky Symphony no. 6 Awarded to 1st prize



Competition Awards

1st Award

The 1st prize winner will get one performance (full symphony) with the Bucharest Symphony Orchestra in Award Gala Concert plus three concerts within the 2025 season & EU covered flight return trip.

Other perks

€3000 & official certificate and recommendations to other orchestras and music agents. Conductors Masterclass Online /Bucharest Conducting Academy Protégé Prize, sponsored by CMO, offering a selected conductor(s) 1 free personal private online masterclasses and ongoing career counselling. While music is what gives our lives meaning, it is mentorship that is meaningful for a conductor's career development.

2nd Award

The 2nd prize winner will get one performance (accompaniment) with the Bucharest Symphony Orchestra in Award Gala Concert plus two concerts within the 2025 season & EU covered flight return trip.

Other perks

€2000 & official certificate and recommendations to other orchestras and music agents.

3rd Award

The 3rd prize winner will get one performance (overture) with the Bucharest Symphony Orchestra in Award Gala Concert plus one concert with within the 2025 season & EU covered flight return trip.

Other perks

€1000 & official certificate and recommendations to other orchestras and music agents.

Mentions & four special awards

Finalist Special Mentions

Awarded to 4th place, 5th place, 6th place

President of Jury Award

Bucharest Symphony Orchestra Award

The prize is decided by the votes of the Bucharest Symphony Orchestra musicians

Bucharest Conducting Academy Award

The prize is decided by the Bucharest Conducting Academy

Special Talent Award

The prizes goes to the conductors that demonstrate special talent.

Fees

Masterclass Active student 1250 € + €50EUR application fee

Includes: 5 x seminars, 4 x conducting BSO, 4 x working with string quartet, video recording is not included (optional, payable in Bucharest).

Masterclass Passive student 550 € + €50EUR application fee

Includes: 5 x seminars access, 5 x rehearsals with BSO access, 5 x rehearsals with string quartet access, eligible for active questioning, video recording is not included (optional, payable in Bucharest).

Competition 500 € + €50EUR application fee

Includes: competition participation once accepted, video recording is not included (optional, payable in Bucharest).

What to send on the application form

- artist CV in editable text format;
- three phrases bios in editable text format;
- one artist photo, landscape format;
- conducting video - a public or unlisted video link on YouTube.com or similar video platform.
- proof of payment, such as wire transfer copy in PDF or official bank transaction statement

Application process flow

- **Application phase** After submitting the application, participants receive an anonymous code and a link to access your application status.
- **Video audition / Jury Selection** The jury will then evaluate the video link sent and decides;
- **Acceptance** The final acceptance decisions will be communicated to applicants after the completion of the jury selection process.
- **Selection status announcement** on <https://osb.one/conducting.academy-livestatus>
- **Seat confirmation** After you receive our confirmation, we wait for your payment confirmation, then we proceed to confirm your seat in a 1-2 working days turnaround. Applicants with "awaiting application proof of payment" or "awaiting proof of payment" status will proceed to pay the desired package fee and send the proof of payment in PDF format via email to info@conducting.academy.



Established in 2007, the Bucharest Symphony Orchestra represents a first class Romanian ensemble.

It was founded by three ambitious musicians, and features the most valuable artists musicians in Romania. Wishing to offer music lovers the opportunity to come into contact with quality music, Bucharest Symphony Orchestra has developed original and innovative musical concepts, joined under the SalutCULTURA! season.

The reputation and recognition came along with the impressive series of concerts and events held both in traditional concert halls, outdoor and in less conventional places. Bucharest Symphony Orchestra tackles a wide range of repertoire, ranging from classical music to film music, pop / rock and crossover. The Bucharest Symphony Orchestra mission is to promote music excellence and to attract young people to the concert halls.

A truly official Romanian Cultural Ambassador, Bucharest Symphony Orchestra performed in 2013 and further, in 2017, as the first Romanian orchestra in seven of the most fabulous concert halls in South America, such as: Teatro Colón and Teatro Coliseo Palazzo Italia in Buenos Aires, Teatro El Circulo in Rosario/Argentina; Sala São Paulo in São Paulo/ Brazilia, Teatro El Occitane in Trancoso/Brazilia, Corpartes 660 in Santiago/Chile, Gran Teatro Nacional din Lima/ Peru and Teatro Solís in Montevideo, Uruguay and Opera House, Hanoi, Vietnam.

Since 2021, Asociatia Orchestra Simfonică București holds a public utility institution statute.

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