



Presents the

International Conducting Masterclass & Competition

Edition IV / MMXXII

Bucharest, July 14-20, 2022

"A Conductor's Masterclass to a Winning Mindset, Technique &

Expression" with John Axelrod & Bucharest Symphony Orchestra, in

Bucharest, Romania and the

International Competition with Bucharest Symphony Orchestra &

Winners Awards Gala Concert



To my Conductor Colleagues:

On behalf of the Bucharest Music Institute and the BMI International Masterclass & Competition in Bucharest, I am greatly honored to serve as the President of the Jury for the 2022 edition, and to share this important musical event with my esteemed jury members.

In collaboration with CMO: Conductors Masterclass Online, the opportunity for the BMI International Masterclass & Competition in Bucharest to reach a global group of conductors and worldwide audience reaches a new level of achievement.

Post-Covid live events can now be realized with Masterclasses, the Competition and the Prize Winner's Concert, featuring the world class Bucharest Symphony Orchestra, and the core repertoire of Beethoven's Symphony 5 & 7, Prokofiev's Classical Symphony, Mozart's Don Giovanni Overture and so much more.

Streaming live to subscribers and auditors via the BMI and CMO websites, with regular updates on social media, the BMI 2022 Edition can exponentially increase the profile and potential of the participating conductors.

What makes the BMI/CMO different from other masterclasses and competitions? Of course there is substantial podium time. But the rewards extend beyond the competition with the first CMO /BMI Protégé Prize, sponsored by CMO, offering a selected conductor(s) 4 free personal private online masterclasses and ongoing career counseling.

While music is what gives our lives meaning, it is mentorship that is meaningful for a conductor's career development. Your career as a conductor can be a challenge. Choosing a mentor is a must and staying true to the score is paramount. Find your sound and perfect your performance. Increase your profile and your profit. Benefit from career management and advice. The CMO/BMI Protégé Prize for 4 online masterclasses can help. To learn more, visit <https://conductorsmasterclassonline.com/>

But first the candidates must register, come to Bucharest this July, and compete to win. Of course every candidate is a winner by just participating in the BMI International Masterclass & Competition in Bucharest.

I look forward to seeing you there!

John Axelrod



John Axelrod

Principal Guest Conductor, City of Kyoto Symphony Orchestra, Japan

“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**

Since 1996, Mr. Axelrod has conducted more than 175 orchestras, 35 operas and 60 world premieres. It is evident that John Axelrod has established a profile and position as one of today's leading conductors and is sought after by orchestras and opera houses throughout the world. His extraordinarily diverse repertoire, innovative programming, probing interpretations and charismatic performance style have been praised and recognized 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. In 2019, Maestro Axelrod was announced as the Principal Guest Conductor of the City of Kyoto Symphony Orchestra, reinforcing his global profile. In 2014, Maestro Axelrod became the Artistic and Musical Director of the Real Orquesta Sinfónica de Sevilla (ROSS). His contract was unanimously extended through the 2019-2020 season.

Other titled positions have included Principal Guest Conductor of Orchestra Sinfonica di Milano “Giuseppe” Verdi (LaVerdi) in Italy, from the 2001-2017 season, Music Director of the NHK Jazz at the Metropolitan Theater from 2015-2017, Music Director of the l'Orchestre National des Pays de la Loire in France from 2009-2013, Music Director and Chief Conductor of the Lucerne Symphony Orchestra and Theater in Switzerland from 2004-2009, Music Director of “Hollywood in Vienna” in Austria, from 2009-2011, with the ORF Vienna Radio Orchestra, and in 2001-2009, as Principal Conductor of Sinfonietta Cracovia, in Krakow, Poland.

Among his long term relationships, invitations and recordings with European orchestras include Berlin's RSB, NDR Symphony Hamburg (ElbePhilharmonie), Leipzig Gewandhaus Orchester, hr-Sinfonieorchester Frankfurt, Dortmund Symphoniker, Dusseldorf Symphoniker, Filarmonica della Scala, Orchestra Sinfonica Nazionale della RAI Torino, Teatro La Fenice Orchestra in Venice, Orchestra del Maggio Musicale Fiorentino, Orchestre de Paris, Danish Radio Symphony Orchestra, Oslo Philharmonic Orchestra, Prague Radio Symphony Orchestra, RTVE Orquesta Madrid, Orchestra Svizzera Italiana in Lugano, the Shanghai and Suzhou Symphony Orchestras, Camerata Salzburg and the Mozarteum Orchester Salzburg, and the National Philharmonic Orchestra and Mariinsky Orchestra in Russia. In Japan, Mr. Axelrod regularly conducts the NHK and Kyoto Symphony Orchestras. In the USA, Mr. Axelrod has performed with the Chicago Symphony, Los Angeles Philharmonic, and the Philadelphia Orchestra among others. Maestro Axelrod recently debuted to great acclaim with the Bavarian Radio Symphony Orchestra.

Important festival engagements include the Enescu Festival, The Salzburg Festival, the Beethoven Festival in Warsaw, The Lucerne Festival, Montreux Jazz Festival, the Schleswig Holstein Festival, The Ravello Festival and the Pacific Music Festival in Sapporo, Japan. Mr. Axelrod continued his long relationship with Sinfonietta Cracovia, recently conducting the 2020 memorial concert in memory of the composer Krzysztof Penderecki.

John Axelrod's 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, Kurt Weill's Aufstieg und Fall der Stadt Mahagonny and the premiere of Vittorio Montalti's Un Romano a Marte at the Rome Opera, Martinu's Mi-randolina at Teatro la Fenice in Venice and both La Traviata and the premiere of Fabio Vacchi's Lo Specchio Magico at the Maggio Musicale Fiorentino. For the Lucerne Festival from 2004-2009, he conducted: Rigoletto, The Rake's Progress, Don Giovanni, the Three Penny Opera, Falstaff and Idomeneo. Maestro Axelrod was expressly invited to open the 2020 Puccini Festival, conducting Gianni Schicchi, in the first staged opera performance in Europe post Covid-19 and returned in 2021 to conduct a new production of Turandot, directed by Daniele Abbado.

Mr. Axelrod has regularly collaborated with such international artists as Lang Lang, Daniel Hope, Fazil Say, Thomas Hampson, Martin Grubinger, Patricia Kopatchinskaya, Gabriela Montero, Enrico Dindo, Vadim Guzman, David Garrett, Khatia Buniatishvili, Enrico Dindo, Nadja Michael, Jan Lisiecki, Albrecht Mayer, Rinat Shaham, Andreas Blau, José Maria Gallardo del Rey, and Wallis Giunta, among many others. He has recorded core and contemporary repertoire for Sony Classical, Warner Classics, Ondine, Universal, Naïve and Nimbus. Mr. Axelrod also released a cycle of Brahms Symphonies combined with Clara Schumann lieder entitled Brahms Beloved on Telarc, produced by Grammy winner Michael Fine, with Orchestra Sinfonica di Milano Giuseppe Verdi and accompanying Dame Felicity Lott, Wolfgang Holzmair, Indra Thomas and Nicole Cabell.

“One of John Axelrod's strengths is the energy he brings to live performances, based on his conviction that each opportunity to make music is a chance to bring about a better world.”

Remy Franck

Mr. Axelrod is actively committed to working with young professional musicians, engaged as the Principal Conductor in 2016 and 2018 (Bernstein 200) of the Pacific Music Festival in Sapporo and having toured with the Santander Orchestra in Poland, the Schleswig-Holstein Festival Orchestra to the Salzburg Festival, the Orchestra Giovanile Italiana in Italy, the Accademia della Scala to Muscat, the Nord-Deutsche Junge Philharmonie in Germany, and the Vienna Jeunesse Orchester in Austria.

Since 2013, Mr. Axelrod is also founder of CultureALL Association in Switzerland, which collaborates with UNESCO, commissions composers, develops young musicians and provides access to cultural events and patrimony for underserved and underprivileged members of the community at large.

Maestro Axelrod teaches conducting to students worldwide via his

He has also authored three published books, *Wie Großartige Musik Entsteht* for the Henschel Verlag and *Lenny and Me: Conducting Bernstein's Symphonies* for Naxos, and *Big Notes: How a Stradivarius Makes Money and Music* for Clink Street Publishing, and he maintains a [blog](#) about wine and music.

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 he made his professional debut as assistant conductor for Parsifal at the Bayreuth Festival.

The Masterclass

"A Conductor's Masterclass to a Winning Mindset, Technique & Expression" with John Axelrod & Bucharest Symphony Orchestra, in Bucharest, Romania

Bucharest Music Institute (BMI) 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 14-17, 2022, the general meeting concerning the masterclass information and welcome ceremony is scheduled for July 13 @ 7pm.

Application deadline: June 30, 2022

All active, beginner, passive students and livestream audience applications are welcome.

Location

National University of Music Bucharest – Strada Știrbei Vodă 33, București 03016, Romania. The University is located in the very centre of Bucharest, 5 min. walk from Romanian Athenaeum, near the Cismigiu Park and 10 from Piata Romana Metro station.

Masterclass Repertoire

The Masterclass will be held in English/French.

Mozart "Don Giovanni" Overture, **Rossini** "Il Barbiere di Siviglia" Overture, **Prokofiev** "Classical Symphony" – 1st movement, **Beethoven** Symphony no. 5 & Symphony no. 7 all movements.

The participants must provide their own scores.

Schedule

Daily schedule: July 14-17

10:00-14:00 podium time with BSO

14:00-15:30 break

15:30-17:30 podium time with string quartet

17:30-18:15 "A Conductor's Masterclass to a Winning Mindset, Technique & Expression" daily seminar with John Axelrod

18:15-18:30 short break

* 18:30-19:45 student performance video analysis – *July 14-July 16 only*

The number of the candidates will be the factor that will decide the sum of the total number of minutes of conducting session / student.

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. You can request to have a official copy of your performance sessions at the Masterclass and inform us while attending the event about your intention. The fee for providing your video is 50 EUR / student.

The Competition

International Competition with Bucharest Symphony Orchestra & Winners Awards Gala Concert



July 18-20, 2022, the general meeting starts at 07:00 pm for all competitors and consists of the welcoming ceremony and information about competition plus the draw of lots.

Application deadline: June 30, 2022

Award Gala Concert

As a premiere, the Competition features a Awards Gala Concert for the winning conductors and will take place at National University of Music Bucharest, Strada Știrbei Vodă 33, București 03016, Romania.

Location

National University of Music Bucharest – Strada Știrbei Vodă 33, București 03016, Romania. The University is located in the very centre of Bucharest, 5 min. walk from Romanian Athenaeum, near the Cismigiu Park and 10 from Piata Romana Metro station.

Competition Repertoire

The Competition repertoire will be divided by rounds, accordingly:

1st round All candidates

Overtures

Mozart Don Giovanni

Rossini "Il Barbiere di Siviglia"

2nd round Semi-final – 15 candidates

Chamber Orchestra

Prokofiev Classical Symphony – 1st movement

Tchaikovsky "Rococo" Variations - *soloist Soma David*

3rd round The Final – 6 candidates

Concerto / Symphony Orchestra

Beethoven Symphony no. 5 or Symphony no. 7 – all movements

The participants must provide their own scores.

Competition Schedule

July 18

10:00-13:00 / 14:00-17:00 **1st round**

18:00 announcement

July 19

10:00-14:00 **The Semi-final**

15:00 announcement

July 20

10:00-13:00 **The Final**

14:00 announcement

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

Concert program

Mozart "Don Giovanni" Overture or **Rossini** "Il Barbiere di Siviglia" Overture **3rd prize**

Tchaikovsky "Rococo" Variations **2nd prize**

Pause

Beethoven Symphony no. 5 or Symphony no. 7 **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 one concert with other major Romanian orchestra within the 2022/2023 season.

Other perks - 1200 € & official certificate and recommendations to other orchestras and music agents
Premiere:

Conductors Masterclass Online /BMI Protégé Prize, sponsored by CMO, offering a selected conductor(s) 4 free personal private online masterclasses and ongoing career counseling. 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 one concert with other major Romanian orchestra within the 2022/2023 season.

Other perks - 800 € & 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 other major Romanian orchestra within the 2022/2023 season.

Other perks - 500 € & official certificate and recommendations to other orchestras and music agents.

Finalist Special Mention Awarded to 4th place, 5th place and 6th place

Bucharest Symphony Orchestra Award

The prize will be decided by the votes of the Bucharest Symphony Orchestra musicians.

BMI Award -The prize will be decided by the BMI, Bucharest Music Institute.

President of Jury Award - The prize will be decided by John Axelrod.

Special Talent Award - The prize goes to the conductor that demonstrates special talent.

NEW: BMI Scholarship, application, preselection & fees

Application deadline: June 30, 2022

100% Scholarship

Bucharest Music Institute welcomes students of all levels, all ages and all nationalities, with or without specialty diploma.

Romanian citizens can apply to scholarships. Applies to candidates that hold a **valid Romanian issued** ID or passport. The scholarship reimbursement in value of **50%** is applied upon the successful payment confirmation and application submission.

All students are automatically enrolled to receive a 100% reimbursement as a BMI scholarship that includes Masterclass & Competition free attendance.

Only 5 seats are available. The jury decides the upon the video recording sent along with the application form and will be based on technique, expression and overall performance. The winners of the scholarships will be announced on July 1st and will receive 100% reimbursement while attending the events in Bucharest.

Masterclass fees

MAESTRO PACKAGE - Masterclass and Competition participation 1200 €. Includes: Active student package + competition application

Active student 900 €. Includes: Masterclass application fee 50 €, 4 seminars, 4 times conducting BSO, 4 times work with string quartet, video recording for each day performance.

Passive student 500 €. Includes: application fee 50Euro, 4 seminars, 4 times watching active students conducting BSO, 4 times watching string quartet. Eligible for active questioning.

Masterclass & Competition Live Streaming All Access Pass 150 €. Same benefits as Passive students, except questioning, plus access to Competition. Access limited to 1 device.

What to send on the application form

1. artist CV in editable text format;
2. three phrases bios in editable text format;
3. letter of recommendation;
4. one or two artist photos
5. conducting video - a public or unlisted video link provided by YouTube.com or similar video platform.
6. proof of payment, such as wire transfer copy in PDF or transaction statement issued by the bank that operates your card;

Competition: 400 € - includes application fee + video recording

Payments

Start here - <https://bminstitute.ro/application>

1 Pay the desired via wire transfer (any worldwide bank) or SEPA transfer (valid for EU account holders);

2 Complete the application form on <https://bminstitute.ro/application/>;

That's it, Success!



**ORCHESTRA SIMFONICĂ
BUCUREȘTI**

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.

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

Contact

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