

Elias Salazar - Conductor



Elias Salazar is a distinguished Venezuelan American conductor residing in Nashville, Tennessee. Known for his "precision, clarity, energy, and passion" on the podium, he has significantly impacted the Nashville music community for over a decade. He recently completed a five-season tenure as Artistic Director and Conductor of the Trevecca Symphony Orchestra and served as Music Director of the Belmont University Opera for the 2021-2022 season.

In 2024, Salazar completed a 10-year tenure as the Director of Choral and Orchestral Music at Ensworth School where he also founded and directed the Ensworth School of Music. His dynamic and innovative approach to music education helped the school's music program flourish for a decade. Salazar currently serves on the Board of Directors of the Nashville Philharmonic Orchestra and has had previous appointments as the

Contemporary Music Chair on the board of the Tennessee American Choral Directors Association, as a member of the Board of Directors for the Gateway Chamber Orchestra, and as a member of the Leadership and Action Council for the Nashville Singers. He is also a vocalist with the acclaimed Portara Ensemble, featured at the 2017, 2018, and 2023 CMA Awards and the 2018 CMA Country Christmas program.

Salazar's experience further includes a two-season tenure as Conducting Fellow with the Nashville Philharmonic Orchestra under Dr. Christopher Norton, a season as Interim Music Director for the Music City Youth Orchestra, and numerous guest conducting engagements with groups such as the Tennessee Philharmonic Orchestra, the Nashville Cinematic Symphony, and various ensembles at Belmont University. From 2014 to 2016, he was the lead trumpet player and vocalist for the Nashville Salsa Collective, an 8-piece Latin band.

Educated at Belmont University, Salazar double-majored in Music Education and Classical Performance with a trumpet emphasis. He studied conducting under Drs. Jeffery Ames, Robert Gregg, Barry Kraus, and Jane Warren and trumpet under Dr. Joel Treybig. He further refined his conducting skills under Kelly Corcoran, former Music Director of the Nashville Symphony Chorus and current director of Intersection.

Driven by a passion for conducting, community, and education, Salazar strives for excellence in his technique, preparation, interpretation, and performances. His dream is to provide world-class concert experiences and to inspire audiences worldwide through exhilarating and unforgettable performances and education initiatives.