

*Mia* '26 INTERNATIONAL  
CONDUCTING  
MASTERCLASS



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**MARK HERON**  
Pedagogical and  
Artistic Director

**REGISTRATION  
DEADLINE**

1st phase  
**April 15th**

**JULY**  
**06-12**

*Casa de Música  
de Aveiro (Aradas)*

2nd phase  
**May 15th**

Structure financed by the Ministry of  
Culture / Direção-geral das Artes



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**06.07.2026**

# *Ria* '26 INTERNATIONAL CONDUCTING MASTERCLASS

06 - 12 July

The **Orquestra das Beiras** will organise, under the guidance of **conductor Mark Heron** and in partnership with the **University of Aveiro**, the 2nd Edition of **RIA International - Conducting Masterclass**.

It will take place between **July 6 to 12** of 2026, concluding with a public performance in **Renato Araújo auditorium** of University of Aveiro and **Centro Cultural Gil Vicente auditorium**, in Sardoal.

The RIA continues the excellent work developed by **conductor Ernst Schelle** during the various editions of CIAO - International Course for Orchestral Art. The main goal of this International Course is to contribute to the **technical and artistic growth** of all who seek to deepen their knowledge and skills in the **art of orchestral conducting**, be they young conductors, students or teachers.

## General conditions

Those wishing to enrol in the course must apply before:

**April  
15th**

Early Bird

**1st phase**

**May  
15th**

Regular Registration

**2nd phase**

To the following email addresses:  
[formacao@orquestradasbeiras.com](mailto:formacao@orquestradasbeiras.com) and  
[geral@orquestradasbeiras.com](mailto:geral@orquestradasbeiras.com).

Along with this form, candidates are required to send their **CV**, as well as a **link to a video of them conducting**. We do not require recordings with a full orchestra, and accept recordings of chamber ensembles and of string or wind orchestras.

**Proof of payment of the registration fee** must also be sent. The course will accept a maximum of **8 active candidates** (3 of whom are admitted under the protocol with the University of Aveiro and by recommendation of the Department of Communication and Art), who will be entitled to **120 - 140 minutes** of work with the Orchestra, as well as daily sessions of video analysis with the course professor. It will also be possible to participate in **observer mode**.

Selected candidates will be contacted by email no later than **May 22nd** and after confirming their attendance must pay the appropriate fee by **May 29th**.

# Fees

Early Bird

## 1st phase

until  
April  
15th

**General registration fee: 30€**

**Active:** 1150€  
(University of Aveiro  
students\*: 500€)

**Observer\*\*:** 100€  
(University of Aveiro  
students\*/OFB:  
only requires the payment of  
the general registration fee)

**To be paid by bank transfer to the following IBAN:**

**PT50 0035 0836  
0000 1472 1302 2**

(Caixa Geral  
de Depósitos)

The candidate's name must be present in the bank transfers receipt (proof of payment fee).

Regular Registration

## 2nd phase

until  
May  
15th

**General registration fee: 30€**

**Active:** 1250€  
(University of Aveiro  
students\*: 625€)

**Observer\*\*:** 150€  
(University of Aveiro  
students\*OFB:  
only requires the payment of  
the general registration fee)

\* **1 vacancy available**, subject to evaluation by the admissions committee.

Students at the University of Aveiro must provide **proof of enrolment** in the current academic year.

\*\*As an **observer** you don't need to submit a video recording with your application.

## Repertoire

**Carl Maria von Weber**  
Oberon Overture, J.306

**Edvard Grieg**  
Piano Concert, Op.16

**Johannes Brahms**  
Symphony No.3 in F Major,  
Op. 90

## Information

The course will be held in **Casa de Música**, Quarteirão de Artes e Cultura de Aveiro, em Aradas (Rua Dr. Alberto Souto, 3810-417 Aveiro).

The public performance will take place in **Renato Araújo auditorium** of University of Aveiro, on the 11th of July, and in **Centro Cultural Gil Vicente auditorium**, in Sardoal, on 12th of July.

All participants will receive a certificate of participation.



## MARK HERON

### Professor and Conductor

Mark Heron is a Scottish conductor renowned for his dynamic, meticulously rehearsed performances across an exceptionally broad repertoire, his expertise in orchestral training, and his outstanding record as a conducting pedagogue.

He has worked with leading ensembles, including the BBC Philharmonic, BBC Concert Orchestra, Philharmonia, Royal Liverpool Philharmonic Orchestra, Royal Scottish National Orchestra, Manchester Camerata, Psappha, Meininger Hofkapelle, Pori Sinfonietta, among many others.

He is the Music Director of the Nottingham Philharmonic and serves as Professor and Head of Conducting at the Royal Northern College of Music (RNCM), where he leads the world-leading conducting programmes and works extensively with all the college's orchestras and ensembles. He is also Conductor Laureate of the Liverpool Mozart Orchestra and previously spent ten years as Director of Orchestras at the University of Manchester.

A passionate advocate for young musicians, Mark has conducted ensembles from institutions such as the Royal Academy of Music, Royal Conservatoire of Scotland, Escola Superior de Música de Lisboa, and Tilburg & Maastricht Conservatoires, as well as the National Youth Wind Orchestras of Great Britain, Wales, and Israel, the Slovenian National Youth Orchestra, and others.

Deeply engaged with contemporary music, he has premiered numerous significant works and collaborated with leading composers, including Kalevi Aho, Sir George Benjamin, Sir Harrison Birtwistle, Unsuk Chin, Tansy Davies, Detlev Glanert, Heiner Goebbels, Anders Hillborg, Giya Kancheli, Magnus Lindberg, Sir James MacMillan, Colin Matthews, Christopher Rouse, Kaija Saariaho, and Mark-Anthony Turnage.

Notable operatic premieres include Adam Gorb's *The Path to Heaven* (2018) and the European premiere of Daron Hagen's *Bandanna* (2006). His discography includes dozens of recordings with the RNCM Wind Orchestra for labels such as Chandos, Naxos, NMC, ASC, and Polyphonic, as well as projects with the BBC Concert Orchestra, Seckou Keita, and the Royal Liverpool Philharmonic. He has also conducted numerous broadcasts with BBC orchestras.

Mark studied at the RSAMD and RNCM. Following a successful career as a chamber musician and freelancer with many of the UK's leading symphony orchestras, he pursued conducting studies at the RNCM and in masterclasses with Neeme and Paavo Järvi, Jorma Panula, and Sir Mark Elder. He also participated in the London Symphony Orchestra's young conductor mentoring programme under Sir Colin Davis.

In addition to his conducting work, Mark is regarded as one of the world's leading conducting teachers. His students have achieved international success, and he has played a key role in shaping conducting programmes at the RNCM and the University of Manchester. He is a visiting professor for the Royal Air Force and frequently leads conducting masterclasses worldwide. He was the lead content author for the online conducting resource ConductIT.



## ORQUESTRA DAS BEIRAS

The **Orquestra das Beiras** gave its first concert on December 15, 1997, on the anniversary of the University of Aveiro. With more than 28 years of activity, it has steadily established itself on both the national and international music scene. Created within the framework of a government program aimed at establishing a network of regional orchestras, **it was born from the ambition and joint effort of several institutions and municipalities in the Beiras region** (central region of Portugal), which came together to form the Beiras Musical Association (Associação Musical das Beiras). Meanwhile, the Portuguese government, recognizing its important cultural and social role, granted it the prestigious status of a public utility institution.

With more than 28 years of activity, Orquestra das Beiras is now a **leading ensemble in the musical world**, with growing national and international recognition. It comprises 31 highly qualified musicians from the string, wind, and percussion sections. Trained at prestigious institutions and with extensive international experience, they stand out for their **interpretative excellence, artistic versatility, and ability to engage** with diverse audiences and musical fields. Throughout their careers, they have collaborated on numerous musical projects with the great masters of classical music, as well as with notable artists from other musical genres.

Its history includes **participation in major music festivals** in Portugal and abroad, such as the Guyenne Festival (France), the Mérida Festival (Spain), and the Ferrol Internacional Piano Competition (Spain). The Orchestra has performed in highly prestigious venues such as the Belém Cultural Center (CCB), the Porto Coliseum (Promenade Concerts), the São Carlos Nacional Theatre, the São Luiz Theatre, the Aveirense Theatre, the José Lúcio da Silva Theatre, and the Theatre Circo, among others, performing major concerts, operas, and ballets.

Throughout its journey, **it has collaborated with some of the most prestigious national and international artists**, such as the tenors José Carreras, Andrea Bocelli, and Carlos Guilherme, as well as other

major names across a wide musical spectrum: Alados Namorados, Bernardo Sasseti, Capitão Fausto, Camané, Carlos do Carmo, Carminho, Cristina Branco, Cuca Roseta, Danças Ocultas, Dulce Pontes, Gilberto Gil, Gisela João, Ivan Lins, Jafumega, James, Janita Salomé, Luís Represas, Maria João, Mário Laginha, Mariza, Paulo de Carvalho, Paulo Flores, Ricardo Ribeiro, Rui Reininho, Rui Veloso, Vitorino, Xutos & Pontapés, among many others.

The orchestra has gained **increasing recognition for its innovative educational activities** in partnership with leading musicians, actors, and dancers: children's and youth educational programs, international courses - vocal, instrumental, and orchestral conducting - among which, the **RIA International**. Guided by these same principles, since 2006 it has presented various opera productions, aimed at young audiences, as well as standard repertoire and Portuguese pieces. The **creation, performance, and recording of new classical and contemporary music pieces** are also part of its vision, promising exciting developments.

In 2026, it (re)affirms its **presence at the country's main classical music and opera festivals** – stay tuned. It is also the year to relaunch the **Harry Potter cine-concert series**, in partnership with Lemon Live Entertainment, CineConcerts, and Warner Bros (March 28 and 29, respectively at Campo Pequeno in Lisbon and Super Bock Arena in Porto).

The Orquestra das Beiras has embraced the important **mission of democratizing and decentralizing culture** through a **true cultural outreach**, especially in the central region, bringing music to communities, often in coordination with local cultural policies.

To strengthen this role, particularly in socio-culturally disadvantaged areas, the **Circle of Friends and Patrons** was recently created, with the aim of building a community that supports the Orchestra's mission.

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REGISTRATION FORM

Name

  

Date of Birth

 /  / 

Nacionality

Adress

  

Contact

 

Email

Musical Qualifications

  
  

Do you study at the University of Aveiro?

Yes

No

In which model are you looking to enroll?

Active

Observer

Once completed, this form must be sent until April 15th (1st phase) or May 15th (2nd phase), to email: [formacao@orquestradasbeiras.com](mailto:formacao@orquestradasbeiras.com) and [geral@orquestradasbeiras.com](mailto:geral@orquestradasbeiras.com).