

5TH INTERNATIONAL CONDUCTOR ACADEMY - ESTORIL '24 - PORTUGAL

The Cascais & Oeiras Chamber Orchestra proudly announces the 5th International Academy of Orchestra Conducting, to take place at the Cascais Conservatory of Music in Portugal from July 13 - 20, 2024. The International Academy includes an international competition for young conductors, where among the awards the first prize winner is asked to return as a professional guest conductor in the subsequent season.

The International Academy of Orchestra Conducting has been attracting talented young conductors from different continents who are looking for opportunities to perfect their art by working with a top professional orchestra under the tutelage of renowned pedagogues in an invigorating environment. The International Academy comprises of one superior course level:

Geared towards more experienced conductors or composers interested in broadening their skills and knowledge, while further developing their competencies as orchestra conductors. Under the supervision of experienced instructors, conducting fellows will have the chance to participate in a competition that takes place at the end of the course. Three conductor finalists will be chosen to perform in the final concert with a professional orchestra.

Throughout the course, students will develop their manual technique, learn how to prepare scores for rehearsals, enhance their interpretative skills, organize effectively rehearsals, leverage communication through personal charisma, and pursue a refined demeanor on stage. Students will improve their understanding of the specificities of the various instrumental families, dealing with performance practices, stylistic matters and search for individual approaches on how to optimize performances. In addition, participants will have the opportunity to improve their accompaniment skills by working with a professional soloist. The repertoire was carefully chosen and includes meaningful compositions by Schoenberg and Mahler. This year the repertoire includes two of the most important composers of the 20th century; Arnold Schoenberg, celebrating 150 years since his birth with his Suite for Strings and the famous Symphony N° 4 by Gustav Mahler. The last movement has the involvement of a soprano allowing for a very specific work with the soloist.

Located in the shores of the Atlantic Ocean, the beautiful Monte Estoril neighborhood provides an ideal environment for inspired work in the great facilities of the Cascais Conservatory of Music. All participants will enjoy high quality work in a supportive environment under the guidance of two experienced conductors/pedagogues with the top professional chamber orchestra of Portugal.

INFORMATION: <https://occo.pt/en/academia-internacional-2/>

CONTACTS: geral@occo.pt / www.occo.pt

Conductors/Pedagogues: Nikolay Lalov – www.nikolaylalov@gmail.com Ricardo Averbach – <https://sites.miamioh.edu/mu-symphonyorchestra/personnel/ourconductor/>

INFORMATION

Active participants work with a professional orchestra, and the three finalists selected by the jury perform at a public concert.

Minimum of 30 hours of instruction time with a professional orchestra, as well as 6 hours of theoretical preparation and conducting with a Strings Orchestra under the guidance of the conducting professor.

Young maestros who have experience in conducting and an equivalent degree to that of a Master's can apply.

PASSIVE PARTICIPANTS

Passive participants will have access to all sessions, with the possibility to interact with the faculty, the workshop participants and the orchestra members. Past participants tend to return to future editions of these workshops as active conducting fellows.

REPERTOIRE

Arnold Schoenberg: Suite in the Old Style for String Orchestra.

Gustav Mahler: Symphony N°4 in G Major

PRIZES AND AWARDS

SPECIAL AWARDS

By decision of the jury, an additional scholarship corresponding to 50% may be awarded.

COMPETITION PRIZES

3rd prize: full refund of the cost of the course

2nd prize: 900 euros

1st prize: 1000 euros and invitation to guest conduct a concert of the Cascais & Oeiras Chamber Orchestra in a subsequent season

All candidates receive diplomas specifying the number of credit hours of the course. The finalist of the competition will have a professional quality audio/video recording. The participants on the semi-final can have also audio/video recording, paying 80 euros for it.

APPLICATION PROCESS AND COURSE FEES

- The course level will accept a maximum of 10 active participants
- Vacancies are filled according to the order in which applications are received
- Acceptance is subject to approval through an evaluation of the candidate's curriculum and/or video. Confirmation of acceptance is provided through email.
- Upon receiving the confirmation, participants are asked to pay 50% of non-refundable deposit and the balance of 50% should be paid at the beginning of the course. Candidates who choose to pay upfront the full amount will receive a 5% discount.
- Participation in the workshop is secured only after the payment of the deposit fee.
- The deadline for applications is **May 30th, 2024**

FEES

Passive participant:	40 euros (for each workshop)
Active participant:	800 euros

SCHEDULE

JULY 13-20

JULY 13

2PM

Registration

3PM-5:30PM

Lecture: Common errors and problems of the conducting practice

JULY 14

10AM-1PM

Score study and marking. Formal analysis. Dynamic markings and articulations. Organization and preparation for rehearsal with orchestra

2PM-6PM

Conducting practice with string quartet

JULY 15-18

9:30AM-12:50PM

REHEARSALS WITH ORCHESTRA

2PM-5PM

REHEARSALS WITH ORCHESTRA

JULY 19

COMPETITION SEMI-FINAL

9:30AM-9:50AM Candidate A

9:50AM-10:10AM Candidate B

10:10AM-10:30AM Candidate C

10:30AM-10:50AM Candidate D

Break

11:10AM-11:30PM Candidate E

11:30PM-11:50PM Candidate F

11:50PM-12:10PM Candidate G

12:10PM-12:30PM Candidate H

JULY 20

9PM

FINAL CONCERT CONDUCTED BY THE THREE FINALISTS OF THE COMPETITION
ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE PRIZE WINNERS