

SARAH IOANNIDES

Conductor

BIOGRAPHY

Described by the *New York Times* as a conductor with “unquestionable strength and authority” and a conductor with “magic” Sarah Ioannides’ dynamic presence has won praise from audience and critics alike internationally with engagements spanning five continents. Music Director of Symphony Tacoma and the Spartanburg Philharmonic Orchestra, she is quickly gaining recognition as one of the most active, engaging and innovative conductors of her generation.

Recently listed one of the top twenty female conductors worldwide by Lebrecht’s “Woman Conductors: The Power List” in 2016, she has also been named in the *Los Angeles Times* as “one of six female conductors breaking the glass podium” and noted in the *New York Times* as part of “a new wave of female conductors in their late 20’s through early 40’s” Ioannides was awarded the JoAnn Falletta award for the most promising female conductor.

As a guest conductor she has appeared internationally with the Tonkünstler Orchestra, Royal Philharmonic Orchestra, Orchestra Nationale de Lyon, Gothenburg Symphony Orchestra, Flemish Radio Orchestra, National Symphony of Colombia, Daejeon Philharmonic, Freiburg Philharmonic Orchestra, Wuttenbergisches Kammerorchester, and the Simon Bolivar Youth Orchestra. Ioannides has also led orchestras extensively in the United States including the Buffalo Philharmonic, Chattanooga Symphony, Charleston Symphony, Louisville Orchestra, New Haven Symphony, New West Symphony, North Carolina Symphony, Rochester Philharmonic, Toledo Symphony, and Tulsa Symphony. A protégé of the late Otto-Werner Mueller, Ioannides has appeared in special engagements with the Los Angeles Philharmonic, New World Symphony and the London Symphony Orchestra working with Pierre Boulez and Esa-Pekka Salonen.

Formerly the Assistant Conductor of the Cincinnati Symphony Orchestra, she was the first woman appointed to the full-time conducting staff of the Cincinnati Symphony Orchestra. Ioannides also held appointments as Music Director of the El Paso Symphony for six years as Music Director, guest Music Director of the Dessoif Choirs, and Music Director of Oxford University. Her extensive and diverse experience in orchestral, choral, operatic, new works and multimedia performance is equal to her passion to support learning and music education. Formerly Assistant Conductor of the Cincinnati Symphony Orchestra, Ioannides is passionate about education, and continues to coach orchestra at high-level conservatories such as Yale University, Curtis Institute, Chicago College of Performing Arts.

A zealous supporter of living composers, Ioannides has conducted over 40 World, North American and European premiers. Under her leadership, Spartanburg Philharmonic Orchestra and Tacoma Symphony have received ArtWorks grants from the National Endowment for the Arts, both for creativity in collaborations, commissioning and community involved projects. Formerly working regularly with composer/conductor Tan Dun, Ioannides has directed and commissioned films for live orchestral multimedia performances including new films for Holst’s *The Planets*, and Steve Reich’s *The Desert Music*. Currently producer and advisor for a new multimedia art film to accompany Milhaud’s *Creation du Monde*, directed by Brad McCombs, using artworks selected from the Cincinnati Art Museum, Ioannides’ personal paintings and collections internationally which will be shown at Cincinnati’s Summermusik Festival 2016.

Ioannides has collaborated regularly with composer/conductor Tan Dun, serving as Assistant Conductor & Production Coordinator between 1999-2003. As such, she conducted the Gothenburg Symphony Orchestra, the BBC Concert Orchestra, the Flemish Radio Orchestra, BBC Symphony Orchestra, London Sinfonietta and the Oregon Bach Festival. In 2005, she was selected by Tan Dun to conduct his *Water Passion After St. Matthew* at the Perth International Arts Festival and *Opera-Opera* depicted Ioannides lyrical conducting technique as one **“with the most persuasive of gentle textures, she coaxed from the performers an extraordinary array of sounds. She was grace personified.”** She has directed and commissioned films for live orchestral multimedia performances including new films for Holst’s *The Planets*, and Steve Reich’s *The Desert Music*. Ioannides has led many operas and conducted festivals worldwide, including the European premiere of Stephen Paulus’ *The Woodlanders*, British Youth Opera, Curtis Opera Theatre, Spoleto Festival and Philadelphia Opera Company, Perth International Festival.

Sarah began performing as a violinist in the National Youth Orchestra of Great Britain in the UK and horn player in the Surrey County Youth Orchestra from the age of 11. With Masters degrees from Oxford University (Instrumental Scholar) and the Juilliard School of Music (Bruno Walter Award), Ioannides studied conducting, violin, piano, singing and French

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Horn. A recipient of numerous prizes and awards, following studies at the Guildhall School of Music, she came to the United States as a Fulbright Scholar attending the Curtis Institute of Music. Serving on numerous advisory boards, as a competition adjudicator, and public speaker, she has served as panelist for the National Endowment of the Arts for the US Government.