SYMPHONY SERVICES INTERNATIONAL

Conducting Courses 2012

Closing date Friday 29 July 2011

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Introduction

One of Symphony Services International's goals is to assist a new generation of conductors to reach their potential by providing the highest quality training possible.

The program is taught by international conductors, including course director Christopher Seaman and in 2012, Arvo Volmer and Marko Letonja. Symphony Services International's Conductor Development program represents a major investment in Australian talent and in 2012, for the first time, is welcoming applications from international conductors interested in auditioning.

Christopher Seaman is course director of the Conductor Development program. A regular guest conductor of Australian and New Zealand symphony orchestras, he devotes a number of weeks each year to teaching and directing our training programs.

In 2012 Symphony Services International will for the first time host a 2 week summer school taught by Christopher Seaman. This will be a residential course held at the University of Tasmania.

We are delighted to welcome the guest conductors who will join Christopher Seaman in providing expertise and guidance throughout the year.

Summer School

The 2012 Conductor Development Program Summer School will run from Monday 30 January – Friday 10 February. This will be an intensive, residential 2 week course and will involve significant podium time in front of the Tasmanian Symphony Orchestra, sessions with 2 pianos and a small ensemble, regular aural training, score analysis sessions and the opportunity to work with instrumental specialists on performance techniques. A variety of other training activities relevant to the profession of conducting will also be on offer.

This program is highly recommended to all applicants – not only will it be a lot of fun, it will also broaden your network of contacts and provide you with the time to absorb the many skills needed to make the leap into the profession.

International Applicants

In 2012 we are delighted to invite international conductors under the age of 35 to apply for a limited number of positions in the Conductor Development program. This is in response to demand from around the world for access to our high-quality training programs. A maximum of two international students will be accepted on a fee-paying basis into each of the Core modules led by Christopher Seaman. This will allow Australian and New Zealand participants the opportunity to benchmark their skills against their international colleagues, and broaden exposure to different styles and learning techniques. For the international participants, the chance to learn from master teacher Christopher Seaman, podium time with a professional Australian symphony orchestra, networking opportunities and an intensive training period of the highest calibre

A note from the Director

Christopher Seaman
Course Director
(Photo: Kurt Brownell)

I am delighted and privileged to continue to play this important role and in the musical life of Australia. For more than 20 years I have enjoyed coming here and conducting the excellent Australian orchestras. Now, in addition to that, I am able to play my part in teaching and nurturing young Australian conductors.

The Symphony Services International Conductor Development program is, as far as I know, unique. One of the best things about it is that these young conductors will have the opportunity to work with many of the major orchestras and with other groups of experienced players.

They will also be coached by me and by other international guest conductors, giving them a rich diversity of experience to draw on - a priceless gift in itself.

Previous participants in the program have gone on to opportunities to study and work internationally, and some have already begun their careers in Australia and overseas. But whatever level of conducting our participants reach, the whole musical life of Australia, professional, educational, and amateur, will gain enormously from the program's influence on the overall standard of conducting here. Congratulations to Symphony Services International for creating this - I wish there had been something like it for me when I started out!

Christopher Seaman
Course Director

Program

Summer School with Christopher Seaman

Auditioned participant fees:
Australian and New Zealand citizens and permanent residents – $AUD500
International participants – $AUD1500

Location: Hobart
Dates: 30 January – 10 February 2012
Orchestra: Tasmanian Symphony Orchestra

Mastercourses with Christopher Seaman

Fees:
Australian and New Zealand and permanent residents – free
International participant – $AUD1000
Auditors – $AUD100

Core module
Location: Auckland and New Zealand
Dates: 17 – 21 September 2012
Orchestra: Auckland Philharmonia Orchestra

Core module
Location: Auckland and New Zealand
Dates: 8 – 12 October 2012
Orchestra: Auckland Philharmonia Orchestra

Christopher Seaman's experience ranges across the great music that makes up the canon of masterpieces. His mastercourses offer participants opportunities to conduct professional symphony orchestras in Australia and New Zealand and are ideal for learning how to tackle a range of major works. The experience will be refined and guided in additional sessions away from the orchestra, working on technique and with pianists and ensembles. These mastercourses will enable participants to hone music which will be part of any aspiring conductor's repertoire, including both symphonic and concerto works within the context of a fully-professional and stimulating environment. So if you want to learn how to conduct an orchestra at the highest levels of professionalism, apply for these mastercourses.

We are very excited to include a 2 week residential Summer School in our 2012 program with course director Christopher Seaman. It is highly recommended that all conductors apply to participate in this intensive course that will involve podium time with the Tasmanian Symphony Orchestra and a variety of other training activities with specialists from across the profession.

Christopher Seaman – Course Director

Christopher Seaman is in his thirteenth and final season as Music Director of the Rochester Philharmonic Orchestra. In 2008 he was appointed Artistic Advisor of the San Antonio Symphony Orchestra, and he has previously held the positions of Music Director of the Naples Philharmonic (Florida) and Conductor-in-Residence with the Baltimore Symphony Orchestra.

In addition to his many guest appearances with orchestras in North America, he has worked regularly with the major UK orchestras and served as Principal Conductor of both the BBC Scottish Symphony Orchestra and the Northern Sinfonia. In Europe, he has performed with orchestras including the Rotterdam Philharmonic, Netherlands Radio Philharmonic, and the Bergen, Czech, Brno and Warsaw Philharmonic Orchestras. He also appears with the Prague Radio Symphony on a regular basis from 2010/2011.

He frequently visits Australia and Asia, and has conducted the Sydney Symphony and the Melbourne, Queensland and Adelaide Symphony Orchestras, as well as the Auckland Philharmonia, Hong Kong Philharmonic and the Singapore Symphony Orchestra.

Seaman is committed to encouraging young talent and has held the post of Course Director of the Symphony Australia Conductor Development program for many years, devoting several weeks each summer to teaching and directing training programs for young conductors. He has also enjoyed a long association with the National Youth Orchestra of Great Britain and the Guildhall School of Music and Drama.

He has recorded with the Royal Philharmonic and the Philharmonia Orchestra and the most recent of his critically acclaimed releases with the Rochester Philharmonic is Vaughan Williams' London Symphony and Serenade to Music.

Christopher Seaman's awards include an honorary doctorate from the University of Rochester and an ASCAP programming award in recognition of his artistic contribution to the Rochester Philharmonic.

TASMANIAN SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

auckland philharmonia orchestra

Program

Mastercourse with Marko Letonja

Fees
Australian and New Zealand citizens and permanent residents – free
International participant – $AUD1000
Auditors – $AUD100

Location:	Hobart
Dates:	27 – 31 August 2011
Orchestra:	Tasmanian Symphony Orchestra

Marko Letonja

Incoming Chief Conductor and Artistic Director of the Tasmanian Symphony Orchestra, Marko Letonja studied under Anton Nanut at the Academy of Music in Ljubljana and with Otmar Suitner at the Vienna Academy of Music.

He has previously held the positions of Music Director and Chief Conductor of the Basel Symphony Orchestra and Opera (2003-2006) and Musical Director of the Slovenian Philharmonic Orchestra (1991-2003). He is Music Director designate of the Strasbourg Philharmonic Orchestra.

Letonja has also conducted the Vienna Symphony, Munich Philharmonic, Bremen Philharmonic, Stuttgart State Orchestra and the Hamburg Symphony Orchestra, among others. In Australia he has performed with the Adelaide, Melbourne, Queensland, Tasmanian and West Australian Symphony Orchestras, and he was appointed Principal Guest Conductor of Orchestra Victoria in 2008.

On the opera stage he has conducted at La Scala, Milan (*The Makropoulos Case, Sancta Susanna/Il dissoluto assolto*), Berlin State Opera (*Madama Butterfly*), Semperoper Dresden (*Nabucco*), Deutsche Oper Berlin (*La traviata*), West Australian Opera (*Rigoletto*), and the Teatro Nacional de São Carlos in Lisbon (*Die Walküre, Siegfried, Götterdämmerung*). Further opera projects include *Götterdämmerung* and *Der Rosenkavalier* in Strasbourg, *Rigoletto*, *The Marriage of Figaro* and *La traviata* at Opera Australia, *The Tales of Hoffmann* at La Scala, and *La traviata* in Stuttgart.

In addition to engagements in Australia and New Zealand during 2011, further concerts are scheduled with the Strasbourg Philharmonic Orchestra, Basel Symphony Orchestra, Orchestra dell'Arena di Verona and the Munich Radio Orchestra.

TASMANIAN SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

Mastercourse with Arvo Volmer

Fees

Australian and New Zealand citizens and permanent residents – free
International participant – $AUD1000
Auditors – $AUD100

Location: Adelaide
Dates: 18 – 21 November
Orchestra: Adelaide Symphony Orchestra

Arvo Volmer

Arvo Volmer took up his appointment as Music Director of the Adelaide Symphony Orchestra in 2004.

He began his professional conducting career with the Estonian National Opera in 1985, while still a student at the Estonian Music Academy. He made his debut with the Estonian National Symphony Orchestra in 1987, became their Associate Conductor in 1989 and was their Music Director between 1993 and 2001. He was Music Director of the Oulu Symphony Orchestra from 1994 to 2005, and is currently Artistic Director of the Estonian National Opera.

Volmer has conducted almost all the symphony orchestras in Scandinavia, and other orchestras in the UK, France, Germany, Russia, Switzerland, Holland, Portugal, the Czech Republic, Poland, Latvia, Lithuania, Israel and Iceland. Recent highlights have included concerts with the National Orchestra of France, Berlin Radio Symphony, Berliner Symphoniker, Russian Philharmonic Orchestra of Moscow and the St Petersburg Orchestra. He made his Los Angeles debut at Royce Hall with the Adelaide Symphony Orchestra as part of Australia Week in January 2009. He conducted the Adelaide and Tasmanian Symphony Orchestras as part of the Adelaide Festival performance of Mahler's Symphony No.8 in March 2010.

He is active as a conductor of opera, working frequently with the Bolshoi Theatre in Moscow, Finnish National Opera, Norwegian Opera and Oulu Opera.

Arvo Volmer has recorded extensively, including the complete symphonies of Eduard Tubin and the complete orchestral works of Leevi Madetoja, as well as discs of Swedish and Estonian contemporary music. His recordings with the ASO of the Sculthorpe Requiem and Sibelius Symphonies have received international acclaim.

Volmer made his Australian debut in 2001 and has conducted the Sydney Symphony, the Adelaide, Tasmanian, Queensland, West Australian, and Melbourne Symphony Orchestras, and Sydney Philharmonia Choirs.

Arvo Volmer has confirmed his future with the ASO as Chief Conductor and Music Director until 2013.

adelaide symphony orchestra
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Application Guidelines and Selection Process

Eligibility Guidelines

To be eligible to participate in the Core Program you must:

- apply as outlined in this brochure
- be successful in gaining a place through the audition process

Australian and New Zealand Applicants

If you are applying to participate in the Core Program and have applied before, the selection panel will be most interested in what you have done since your last application. Obviously the most important information is about your conducting, but your wider musical experience is also of interest to the panel. If you participated in the 2011 program and wish to continue in 2012 you are still required to submit an application and you may be required to audition. If, in the panel's opinion, you have already achieved the maximum potential the program can offer, you will not be offered a place in the 2012 program. If you are a new applicant, the panel will examine your conducting experience and your general musical background. Generally, about half of all applicants are invited to audition, although this may vary from year to year. You will be notified in writing whether you have been successful in gaining an audition. If you are successful in gaining an audition, you will be given an audition time, date and venue as soon as possible following the initial selection process. However you should note that this will be very close to the audition week. It is your responsibility to obtain all scores required for the auditions, and be prepared to conduct both works. Symphony Services International will not be able to provide scores for the auditions.

The audition panel will be led by Course Director Christopher Seaman, and will also include representatives of Symphony Services International, Australian orchestras and professional musicians. In your audition you will be required to conduct two pianos in sections of the two audition pieces. You will also be asked to perform a short (5 minute maximum) work or section of a work on either piano or an instrument of your choice. This can be as easy or as difficult as you feel comfortable with.

Aural testing is an important part of the audition process and the panel will want to be sure you have a good background of general musical skills. You will be given some basic aural tests (including chord recognition and singing intervals) and a rhythm test. You will also be asked to play on the piano (or sing if you can't play the piano) very simple passages written in Viola clef, and to play (at concert pitch) passages written for Clarinet in A and Horn in F. The openings of a few well-known orchestral pieces will be played for you to recognise.

Audition Schedule

Auditions for all Mastercourses will be held in Brisbane, Sydney, Melbourne and Auckland on the following dates:

Brisbane	Monday August 29 2011
Sydney	Thursday 1 September and Friday 2 September 2011
Melbourne	Sunday 4 September and Monday 5 September 2011
Auckland	Thursday 15, Wednesday 21 and Friday 23 September 2011

No applicant is guaranteed an audition, and auditionees will be selected on their experience as indicated in their application. Applicants are asked to submit a photo for recognition purposes only.

Audition Repertoire

TCHAIKOVSKY *Symphony No.6 1st movement*
BARTOK *Concerto for Orchestra 1st movement*

Candidates must be prepared to conduct two pianos. You may be asked to conduct from any part of the first movement of either work. You should prepare and conduct from a full score rather than a piano reduction. Candidates are responsible for supplying their own orchestral scores for use in the audition. Any section of the audition repertoire may be requested by the audition panel.

Travel Assistance

Symphony Services International may provide airfares to auditions for selected conductors who live outside the cities where auditions will be held. Financial assistance of any kind must not be assumed and is not available to all applicants/participants. If only a small number of applicants are accepted for audition from one of the cities listed above, Symphony Services International may choose to fly these applicants to another audition venue at no cost to the applicant.

Application Guidelines and Selection Process

International Applicants

International applicants are not required to travel to Australia to attend an audition but will be required to submit a DVD of video footage of their conducting with their application. The conducting in this footage must be of an ensemble (ideally an orchestra) of at least 10 musicians and shot from the front, or side on, so that the face and upper body of the conductor is clear in the frame and the ensemble should be at least partly visible. The DVD should be a maximum of 10 minutes in length and contain two works of contrasting styles. These do not need to be complete works. Along with the DVD, applicants will need to provide two written references, and some other details listed in the application form, regarding the recording.

DVDs from Australian and New Zealand applicants will not be accepted unless they can prove that they are currently residing overseas and are unable to attend a live audition.

International applicants and any Australians and New Zealanders residing overseas please note that by submitting an application for the 2012 program you are undertaking a commitment to participate should you be offered a place in the program. Before applying, please take into consideration the time commitment, course fees and travel costs you will incur if you are successful.

DVD applications will not be accepted from applicants currently residing in either Australia or New Zealand.

All Applicants – Application Fees

Australians and New Zealanders wishing to apply as a participating conductor in any mastercourse must pay an application fee of $AUD75. The fee for all other international applicants is $AUD100. Applications will not be accepted without this fee, which must be paid on line through our website. See the application form for more details. Please note that the application fee will not be refunded to unsuccessful applicants or applicants who do not receive an audition. If you are concerned about this fee, please contact the Artist Development Co-ordinator before applying.

How to Apply for the Core Program

All applications must be submitted electronically by completing the form that can be found on our website at www.symphonyinternational.net/artist-development/conductors/conductors-applications

Please ensure you:

- Tick each mastercourse for which you wish to apply
- Indicate your preferred audition venue
- Answer the background questions and complete the Statistical Information sections.
- Electronically attach a copy of your curriculum vitae and a photograph
- Submit the relevant application fee (follow the prompts)
- If you are an International applicant you will need to send two copies of your DVD along with the supporting material to the address below. DVDs must be posted.

All applications must be received and DVDs postmarked **no later than Friday 29 July 2011**.

If you have any problems submitting your application online then please contact:
Anna Howell, Artist Development Co-ordinator
Symphony Services International
PO Box 1145 Darlinghurst NSW 1300
Enquiries: +61-2- 8622 9482 or
howella@symphonyinternational.net

Offers

Places in the various mastercourses will be offered in October 2011. If you are successful in gaining a place in the program we will consider your requested mastercourses, but may offer you alternative mastercourses depending on availability. If you are unable to accept a place as offered to you, there is no guarantee you will receive a place in an alternative mastercourse.

The decision of the panel is final, and no correspondence will be entered into following notification of the results. It is Symphony Services International's policy not to provide feedback on any selection process.

Symphony Services International has a strict withdrawal policy that will be provided to successful applicants at the time of their offer. Failure to adhere to this policy can result in penalty.

Closing Date

Please note all applications must be received by Symphony Services International by close of business on Friday 29 July 2011. All DVDs must be postmarked no later than this date.

Application Guidelines and Selection Process

Auditing

No audition is required, and anyone can apply to audit (observe) any of the mastercourses in 2012. This does not include the 2012 Summer School which will not be open to auditors. Auditing allows developing conductors and other interested musicians not participating in a module the opportunity to attend in an observing capacity. Auditing can help current participants of the program prepare for future modules, and gives those hoping to join the program an insight into what is involved.

As an Auditor you will be given access to attend all scheduled sessions for the course, as an observer only. You will have the opportunity to meet the teacher and conductors involved, but will not actively participate in any activities or have the opportunity to conduct. A maximum number of 5 Auditors will be accepted per module. A fee of $AUD100 will be charged for each module audited and needs to be paid in full prior to the beginning of the course.

Course Fees

Australian and New Zealand citizens and permanent residents

The summer school is residential and therefore attracts a fee of $AUD500 to cover accommodation costs. There is no course fee for other mastercourses for Australian and New Zealand participants who are accepted through auditions. Some travel assistance may be provided in certain cases but should not be assumed. More details on how to apply for financial assistance will be provided to those that are successful in gaining a place in the program.

Applicants from other countries

International participants (excluding New Zealanders) will be charged a nonrefundable fee of $AUD1000 for each module they attend. This must be paid in full at least 6 weeks prior to the beginning of the course. International participants must also cover any travel and accommodation expenses associated with the course.

Auditors

All auditors (including conductors that are accepted into the program) will be charged a fee of $AUD100 for each module audited. This needs to be paid in full prior to the beginning of the course.

Partners

Symphony Services International gratefully acknowledges these orchestras, who will each host mastercourses, providing the invaluable opportunity for conductors to work with a professional orchestra.

TASMANIAN SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

auckland philharmonia orchestra

adelaide symphony orchestra

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