



SYMPHONY  
SERVICES  
INTERNATIONAL

# CONDUCTOR TRAINING 2016/17



Closing date Thursday 9 July 2015

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**Nicholas Carter** (Cover)

*Program Participant: 2005, 2007, 2008, 2010*

*Principal Conductor of the Adelaide Symphony Orchestra, Kapellmeister and musical assistant to Donald Runnicles at Deutsche Oper Berlin. Previously Assistant and Associate Conductor, Sydney Symphony Orchestra and Kapellmeister and musical assistant to Simone Young at Hamburg State Opera.*

*Photo by Tony Lewis*

**Luke Dollman** (this page)

*Program Participant: 1997, 1998, 1999, 2000 (Young Conductor of the Year)*

*Regular conductor of professional orchestras and ensembles in Australia, the UK, Europe and Asia and occasional teacher of programs for Symphony Services International.*

*Photo by Ville Paul Paasimaa*

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# INTRODUCTION AND PROGRAM OUTLINE

Symphony Services International assists young conductors to reach their potential by providing the highest quality training possible.

The Symphony Services International Conductor Development Program represents a major investment in Australian talent and is now firmly established at a high international level. In 2016 the participating orchestras' chief and guest conductors will become involved in the teaching of the program which will comprise various training and professional development opportunities, allowing participants access to podium time and expert

mentorship. These will include a two week Summer School and other activities such as masterclasses, teaching modules and individual assistantships.

Participants who have previously been involved in the program should be aware that from 2016, fewer conductors will be selected to participate. Conductors will be expected to be available for all opportunities offered and participation will continue over a two-year period (2016/17 in the first instance). Entry to the program will not be available again until late 2017 for the 2018/19 period.

*Christopher Dragon*

*Program Participant: 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015*

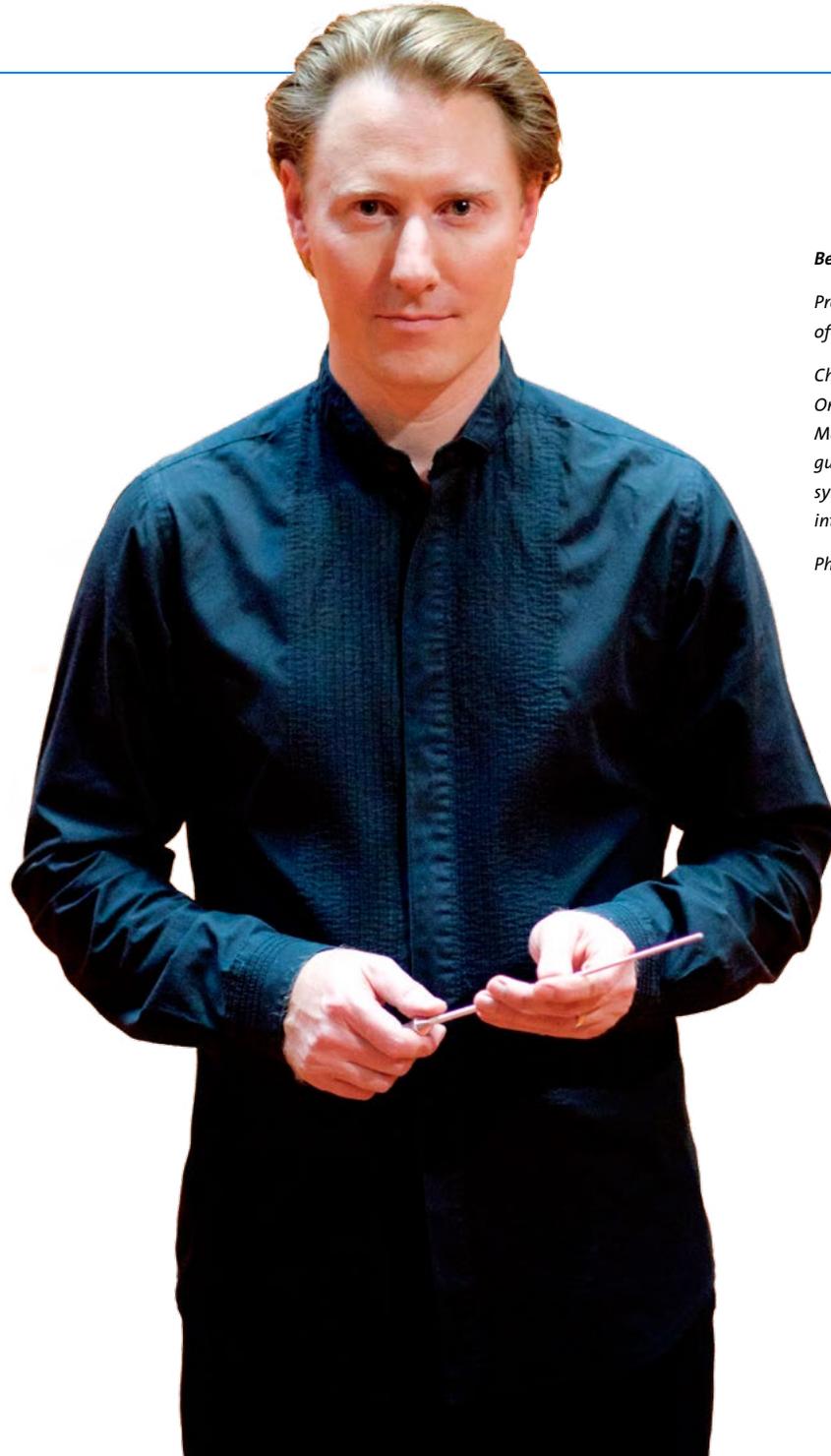
*Assistant Conductor, West Australian Symphony Orchestra*

*Photo by Nik Babic*

# SELECTION PROCESS

Participants will be selected through a three-stage process of Application, National Auditions and Summer School Auditions. All applications must be submitted electronically by completing the [form on our website](#) by Thursday 9 July 2015.

Candidates will be selected to audition based on their experience as indicated in their application and will be notified as soon as possible after the closing date of applications. Following the National Auditions a small number of conductors will be selected to participate in the Summer School which will be the third and final stage in the selection process. Attendance at the Summer School is compulsory for any conductor wishing to gain entry into the Program. The Summer School will comprise various training and development opportunities, including podium time with the Tasmanian Symphony Orchestra, prior to the final auditions which will take place during the School.



**Benjamin Northey**

*Program Participant: 2001 (Young Conductor of the Year), 2002*

*Chief Conductor, Christchurch Symphony Orchestra and Associate Conductor, Melbourne Symphony Orchestra. Regular guest conductor of the Australian symphony orchestras, Opera Australia and international orchestras.*

*Photo by Matt Irwin*

# APPLICATIONS

## Eligibility

To be eligible to participate in the Program you must:

- be an Australian or New Zealand citizen or permanent resident (proof may be requested at any time)
- apply as outlined in this brochure
- be successful in gaining a place through the selection process

If you participated in the 2015 Program and wish to continue in 2016 you are still required to submit an application and if selected you will 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 an audition for the 2016/17 program. If you are a new applicant, the panel will examine your conducting experience and your general musical background. Not all applicants are invited to audition.

## Application Fee

Applicants must pay an application fee of A\$120. Applications will not be accepted without this fee, which must be paid online through our website following the submission of your application

form (follow the prompts). Please note that the application fee will not be refunded to unsuccessful applicants. If you wish to discuss this fee, please contact the Artist Development Coordinator before applying.

## How to Apply

All applications must be submitted electronically by completing the [form on our website](#).

Please ensure you:

- indicate your preferred audition venue
- answer the background questions and complete the Statistical Information sections.
- attach a copy of your curriculum vitae and a photograph
- submit the relevant application fee

Applicants are asked to submit a photo for recognition purposes only. 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 may be very close to the date of your audition.



THE SSI PROGRAM ALLOWED ME TO BUILD MY REPERTOIRE, TECHNIQUE AND CONFIDENCE IN AN ENCOURAGING AND STIMULATING ENVIRONMENT. I CERTAINLY WOULDN'T BE WHERE I'M AT NOW WERE IT NOT FOR THE TIME I SPENT IN THE PROGRAM." **NICHOLAS CARTER**

## Closing Date

Please note all applications must be received by Symphony Services International by close of business on Thursday 9 July. If you have difficulty submitting your application online please contact the Artist Development Coordinator prior to the closing date:

Anna Howell  
Artist Development Coordinator  
Symphony Services International  
PO Box 1145, Darlinghurst NSW 1300  
+61 (0)2 8622 9482 or  
[howella@symphonyinternational.net](mailto:howella@symphonyinternational.net)

Symphony Services International advises against leaving applications until the last minute as technical issues will not be accepted as a valid reason for late entry.

# NATIONAL AUDITIONS

## Dates and Venues

National Auditions will take place in 2015 as follows:

Melbourne	August 21-22
Adelaide	August 24
Perth	August 25
Sydney	August 26-27
Brisbane	August 28

Applicants residing overseas (proof may be required) are not required to travel to Australia to attend an audition but must submit a DVD of video footage of their conducting with their application. Please contact the Artist Development Coordinator for more information.

## Travelling to Your Audition

If only a small number of applicants are accepted for audition from one of the cities listed above, Symphony Services International may choose to cancel these auditions. In this case Symphony Services International will fly affected applicants to an alternative audition venue at no cost to the applicant. Likewise, Symphony Services International may provide some assistance with airfares 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. Financial assistance will only be provided to first-time applicants in exceptional circumstances.

## Audition Information

The audition panel will be led by Christopher Seaman, and may 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. The pianists will be playing from arrangements of the symphonic works (see Audition Repertoire), however applicants should present as though they are conducting a full orchestra. You will be asked to perform a short work or section of a work (5 minutes maximum) on 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 good general musicianship. You will be given some basic aural tests (including chord recognition and singing intervals) and a rhythm test. You will also be asked to sing or play on the piano very simple passages written in alto clef, and to sing or play



FIFTEEN YEARS ON AND THE LESSONS  
LEARNED FROM SSI'S CONDUCTING  
PROGRAM STILL TRAVEL WITH ME EVERY  
DAY." **LUKE DOLLMAN**

(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 identify.

## Audition Repertoire

TCHAIKOVSKY – Symphony No.6 (1st movement)

BARTÓK – Concerto for Orchestra (1st movement)

Any section of the repertoire may be requested by the audition panel, so you should be prepared to conduct any part of the first movement of either work. It is your responsibility to obtain all scores required for the auditions, and you should be prepared to conduct both works. Symphony Services International will not provide scores for the auditions.

## Audition Results

Participants for the Summer School will be selected through the audition process and will be notified as soon as possible following the auditions.

# SUMMER SCHOOL

The Summer School is the third and final stage of the selection process to gain entry into the Program. Summer School participants will be selected through the National Auditions and attendance is compulsory for any conductor wishing to participate in the 2016/17 Program. Taught by Johannes Fritzsch, it will be an intensive, residential two-week course involving podium time in front of the Tasmanian Symphony Orchestra, sessions with pianos and professional ensembles, regular aural training, score analysis sessions, and the opportunity to work with instrumental specialists on performance techniques.

Participants will be assessed for entry into the 2016/17 Program during the School which will culminate in a public performance on Friday 29 January 2016.

## Dates

18 – 29 January 2016, Hobart.

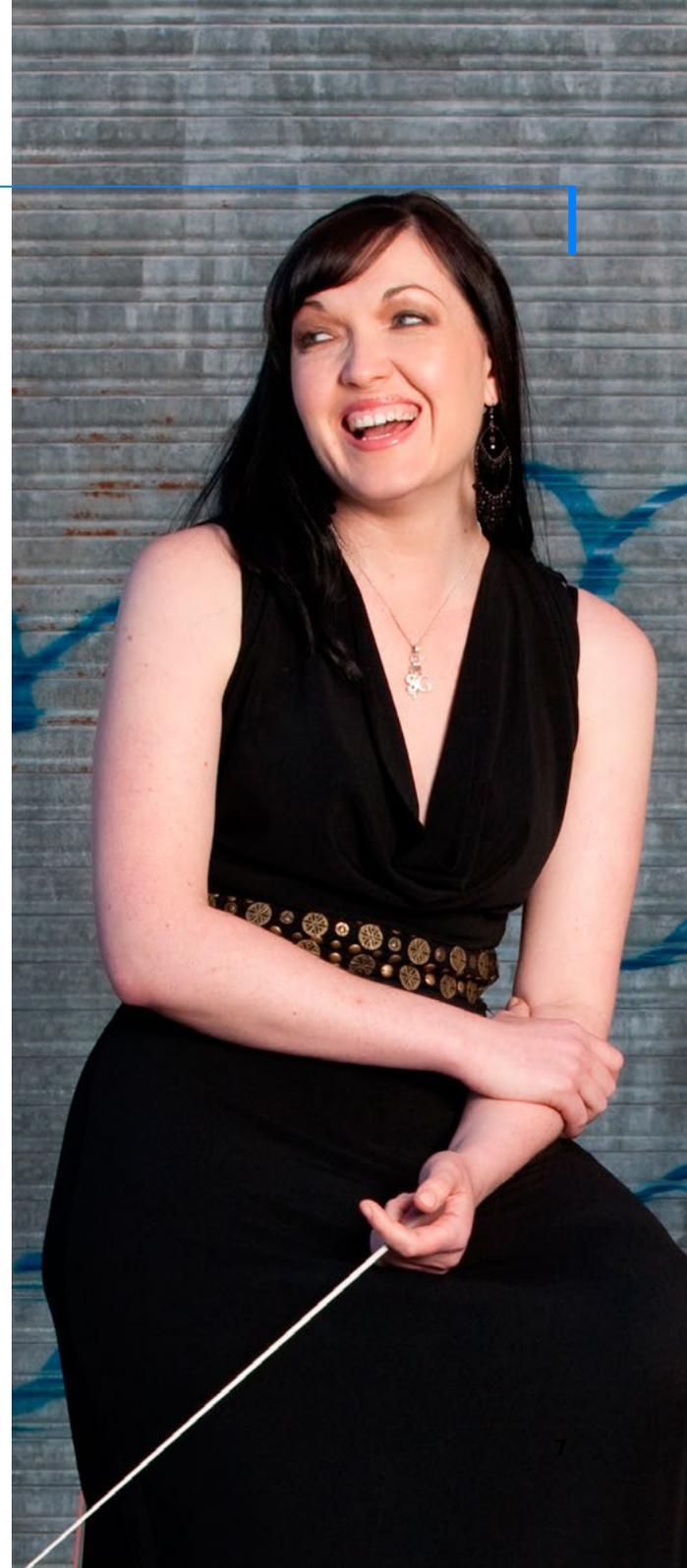
## Fee, Travel and Accommodation

Each conductor attending the Summer School will be charged a participation fee of \$600. This fee covers all accommodation and training costs but does not include food or travel expenses. Participating conductors are expected to arrange and pay for their own flights to Hobart and local travel expenses such as taxis or public transport. Symphony Services International may provide some assistance in cases of financial hardship. Financial assistance of any kind must not be assumed and is not available to all participants.

### *Sarah-Grace Williams*

*Program Participant 2004, 2005, 2006, 2007, 2009, 2010*

*Founding Chief Conductor and Artistic Director of The Metropolitan Orchestra, Assistant Conductor for Symphony Australia (2009-10), regular guest conductor in Australia.*



# OTHER ACTIVITIES 2016/17

A variety of training and professional development activities will be offered to successful candidates following the Summer School. These may include traditional teaching modules, masterclasses, assisting visiting or chief conductors, showcases, concerts and other opportunities. A range of representatives from the six state symphony orchestras will attend parts of the Summer School



THE OPPORTUNITY TO LEARN WITH PROFESSIONAL ORCHESTRAS AND EXPERIENCED MENTORS IS INVALUABLE. WITH ALL OF MY TRAVELLING, I HAVE NOT COME ACROSS A BETTER CONDUCTING COURSE.” **CHRISTOPHER DRAGON**

in order to identify conductors with whom they wish to work; opportunities will then be offered on a by-negotiation basis.

Although participation in any or all of these events is not guaranteed, the opportunity to work with a range of professional orchestras over the two year period will be extremely valuable to participants. For this reason it is expected that successful participants will be available to attend the majority of opportunities offered to them. Conductors without scheduling flexibility and availability during 2016/17 are not encouraged to apply.

Symphony Services International gratefully acknowledges the orchestras who partner with us in providing this invaluable opportunity for conductors.



**aso**

PRINCIPAL PARTNER  
**Santos**



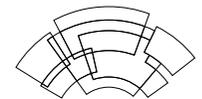
West Australian  
*Symphony* Orchestra  
ASHER FISCH PRINCIPAL CONDUCTOR



melbourne symphony orchestra



TASMANIAN  
SYMPHONY  
ORCHESTRA



Queensland Symphony  
Orchestra



**sydney symphony  
orchestra**

David Robertson  
Chief Conductor and Artistic Director



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