

PHILADELPHIA /ORCHESTRA

Yannick Nézet-Séguin
Music & Artistic Director

Marin Alsop

Principal Guest Conductor

Ralph and Beth Johnston Muller Chair

2026–27 Season



Marin Alsop is one of the foremost conductors of our time—an internationally celebrated artist, pioneering leader, and influential advocate for the transformative power of music. She is in her third season as principal guest conductor of The Philadelphia Orchestra, which involves a regular presence in the Orchestra’s subscription series in Philadelphia; at its summer festivals in Vail, Colorado, and Saratoga Springs, New York; and on tour. She made her Philadelphia Orchestra debut in 1990.

Ms. Alsop made history as the first woman to lead major orchestras in the United States, South America, Austria, and Great Britain, and remains first and only conductor to have received a MacArthur Fellowship. Described by *The New York Times* as “a formidable musician and a powerful communicator” and a “conductor with a

vision,” Ms. Alsop is renowned for her bold artistic leadership, innovative programming, commitment to education, and lifelong dedication to expanding the reach and impact of classical music.

The 2026–27 season marks Ms. Alsop’s fourth as artistic director and chief conductor of the Polish National Radio Symphony and her fourth as principal guest conductor of London’s Philharmonia Orchestra.

To promote and nurture the careers of fellow women conductors, Ms. Alsop founded the Taki Alsop Conducting Fellowship in 2002. The Fellowship has grown into a global platform for identifying and empowering extraordinary women conductors by providing intensive coaching, mentorship, and financial support throughout their careers. Today, the Fellowship includes 42 award recipients and 50 mentees, totaling 92 conductors working to ensure a more equitable future for classical music through their artistry and advocacy. Among them, 32 music director/chief conductor titles are held with orchestras around the world.

Season highlights include Ms. Alsop’s return to the podiums of the San Francisco Symphony and the Baltimore Symphony Orchestra. She will also direct the 2027 Cincinnati May Festival, where she will lead one of the nation’s oldest and most distinguished choral festivals, championing both the choral-orchestral canon and contemporary works. Internationally, Ms. Alsop appears in engagements throughout Brazil, the United Kingdom, Germany, Norway, Poland, France, and Hungary, as she conducts performances with the São Paulo State Symphony Orchestra, the Philharmonia Orchestra, the Rundfunk-Sinfonieorchester Berlin, the Oslo Philharmonic, the Polish National Radio Symphony Orchestra, the Orchestre de Paris, and the Budapest Festival Orchestra.

In previous seasons, Ms. Alsop made her debut as the first woman to conduct the Webern Symphony Orchestra at Vienna’s renowned Musikverein in 2026 and made her long-awaited debut with the Berlin Philharmonic in 2025, where she became the first American-born woman to lead the orchestra. She also made history as the first woman to conduct the Last Night of the BBC Proms and remains the first American invited to guest conduct the celebrated concert three times.

Building on her longstanding relationship with Carnegie Hall, Ms. Alsop completed the 2025–26 season as a Perspectives Artist, joining an elite roster of performers across disciplines who share their philosophies through a curated series of events. Her expansive series invited performances with The Philadelphia Orchestra, the Juilliard School Orchestra, the Philharmonia Orchestra, the National Orchestral Institute Philharmonic, and Carnegie Hall's own Ensemble Connect, alongside additional education initiatives presented through the Weill Music Institute.

In 2021, Ms. Alsop assumed the title of music director laureate and OrchKids founder of the Baltimore Symphony Orchestra. During her 14-year tenure as music director, she led the orchestra on its first European tour in 13 years, released multiple award-winning recordings, and conducted more than two dozen world premieres. She also founded OrchKids, the orchestra's groundbreaking music education program for Baltimore's under-resourced youth. In 2019, after seven years as music director, she became conductor of honor of Brazil's São Paulo Symphony Orchestra. She recently concluded her six-year tenure as chief conductor of the Ravinia Festival, where she led the Chicago Symphony Orchestra in its annual summer residencies. She was music director of California's Cabrillo Festival of Contemporary Music for 25 years, leading 174 premieres. In 2025, she was named honorary conductor of the ORF Vienna Radio Symphony Orchestra, where she served as chief conductor for six years.

Ms. Alsop's discography comprises more than 200 titles, featuring music from the standard repertoire and by contemporary composers. Her 2024 album with John Adams's *City Noir* was nominated for a GRAMMY® Award. Her upcoming partnership with PENTATONE will include recordings of the Mahler symphony cycle, making her the first woman conductor to do so. The project will feature the Philharmonia Orchestra and the ORF Vienna Radio Symphony Orchestra, with which she has a longstanding artistic relationship, and launches with Mahler's Symphony No. 9, recorded with the Vienna RSO and scheduled for release in late 2027.

In 2025, Ms. Alsop received the 2025 Golden Baton Award, the highest accolade conferred by the League of American Orchestras. In 2019, she received the World Economic Forum's Crystal Award. She also served as the 2021–22 Harman/Eisner Artist-in-Residence of the Aspen Institute Arts Program and the 2020 artist-in-residence at Vienna's University of Music and Performing Arts. In collaboration with YouTube and Google Arts & Culture, she developed and spearheaded the "Global Ode to Joy," a crowd-sourced video project to celebrate Beethoven's 250th birthday in 2020.

In recent years, Ms. Alsop has made several notable on-screen appearances that have brought her work to broader audiences beyond the concert hall. She appeared twice on *The Kelly Clarkson Show* in 2026: first in March, interviewed by guest host P!NK, and again in May in conversation with Ms. Clarkson, where she took part in a surprise moment for an aspiring woman conductor. Ms. Alsop is also the subject of Soledad O'Brien's documentary series *She Was First*, which highlights trailblazing women across fields. *The Conductor*, a feature documentary about Ms. Alsop's life, debuted at New York's Tribeca Film Festival and was subsequently broadcast on PBS and at festivals and in theaters worldwide. It was nominated for an Emmy Award for Best Arts and Culture Documentary and received the Naples International Film Festival's Focus on the Arts Award. *The Conductor* can be streamed on Apple TV, Google Play, iTunes, Prime Video, and Vimeo. Ms. Alsop is the director of the Graduate Conducting Program at the Peabody Institute of Johns Hopkins University and holds honorary doctorates from Yale University, Johns Hopkins University, and the Juilliard School.

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