

Biography

Sarah Ioannides

Conductor

<https://www.sarahioannidesmusic.com/>



Sarah Ioannides, praised by *The New York Times* for her "unquestionable strength and authority," is Music Director of Symphony Tacoma and Director of Orchestral Activities at Boston University. Her conducting career spans six continents, and she was the first woman to hold a full-time post with the Cincinnati Symphony Orchestra. Born in Australia and of Cypriot-Scottish heritage, she studied at Oxford, Guildhall, Juilliard, and Curtis.

Before joining Symphony Tacoma in 2014, she led the El Paso Symphony Orchestra and Spartanburg Philharmonic. Her repertoire spans four centuries, enriched by over 60 premieres and collaborations with composers like Steve Reich, Aaron J. Kernis, Zosha Di Castri, and mentor Tan Dun. She conducted the European premiere of Stephen Paulus's *The Woodlanders* and assisted Tan Dun at the Royal Concertgebouw and BBC Symphony.

Guest engagements include Buffalo, Calgary, Seattle, Québec, and international orchestras such as Berlin Konzerthaus, Gothenburg, Royal Philharmonic, and Simón Bolívar Symphony. She leads multimedia projects blending music, visuals, and education—like *Eternal Light*, created during the pandemic.

In 2017, she founded Cascade Conducting & Composing, offering scholarships to emerging musicians. She conducted the Massachusetts All-State Orchestra (2025) and was Resident Conductor of the National Youth Orchestra USA (2023). She's also led ensembles at Yale, Curtis, and Indiana University, and spoken at the NEA, Dallas Symphony's Women in Classical Music Symposium, and the League of American Orchestras.

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