

# Artis—Naples

Home of The Baker Museum  
& Naples Philharmonic

5833 Pelican Bay Boulevard  
Naples, Florida 34108-2740

## Alexander Shelley Sharon and Timothy Ubben Artistic and Music Director

"A natural communicator, both on and off the podium" (*The Daily Telegraph*), Alexander Shelley performs across six continents with the world's finest orchestras and soloists.

With a conducting technique described as "immaculate" (*Yorkshire Post*) and with a "precision, distinction and beauty of gesture not seen since Lorin Maazel" (*Le Devoir*), Alexander is known for the clarity and integrity of his interpretations and for the creativity and vision of his programming. To date, he has spearheaded over 40 major world premieres, highly praised cycles of Beethoven, Schumann and Brahms symphonies, operas, ballets and innovative multimedia productions.

Since 2015, he has served as music director of Canada's National Arts Centre Orchestra and as principal associate conductor of London's Royal Philharmonic Orchestra. In April 2023, he was also appointed artistic and music director of Artis—Naples in Florida, U.S., providing artistic leadership for Naples Philharmonic and for the entire multidisciplinary arts organization. The 2024-25 season is Alexander's inaugural season in this position.

In addition, the Pacific Symphony in Orange County, California, recently announced the appointment of Alexander as their next artistic and music director. The initial five-year term begins in the 2026-27 season, with Alexander serving as music director designate from September 2025.

Additional highlights of the 2024-25 season include performances with the Seattle Symphony, Chicago Civic Orchestra, City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra, Colorado Symphony, Warsaw Philharmonic and the National Symphony of Ireland. Alexander is a regular guest with some of the finest orchestras of Europe, the Americas, Asia and Australasia, including Leipzig's Gewandhaus Orchestra; the Konzerthausorchester Berlin; Orchestre de la Suisse Romande; the Helsinki, Hong Kong, Luxembourg, Malaysian, Oslo, Rotterdam and Stockholm philharmonic orchestras; and the São Paulo, Houston, Seattle, Baltimore, Indianapolis, Montreal, Toronto, Munich, Singapore, Melbourne, Sydney and New Zealand symphony orchestras.

In September 2015, Alexander succeeded Pinchas Zukerman as music director of Canada's National Arts Centre Orchestra, the youngest in its history. The ensemble has since been praised as "an orchestra transformed ... hungry, bold, and unleashed" (*Ottawa Citizen*), and his programming credited for turning the orchestra "almost overnight ... into one of the more audacious orchestras in North America" (*Maclean's Magazine*). Together, they have undertaken major tours of Canada, Europe and to Carnegie Hall, where they premiered Philip Glass' Symphony No. 13. They have commissioned groundbreaking projects such as *Life Reflected* and *Encount3rs*, released multiple JUNO award-nominated albums and, most recently, responded to the pandemic and social justice issues of the era with the *NACOLive* and *UnDisrupted* series. This season, they complete a major Schumann-Brahms-Schumann recording cycle and perform multiple world premieres.

In August 2017, Alexander concluded his eight-year tenure as chief conductor of the Nurnberger Symphoniker, a period hailed by press and audiences alike as a golden era for the orchestra.

Alexander's operatic engagements have included *The Merry Widow* and Gounod's *Romeo and Juliet* (Royal Danish Opera); *La bohème* (Opera Lyra/National Arts Centre), *Louis Riel* (Canadian Opera Company/ National Arts Centre), *Iolanta* (Deutsche Kammerphilharmonie Bremen), *Così fan tutte* (Opéra National de Montpellier), *The Marriage of Figaro* (Opera North), *Tosca* (Innsbruck) and both *Le nozze di Figaro* and *Don Giovanni* in semi-staged productions at the NAC.

Winner of the ECHO prize and the Deutsche Grunderpreis, Alexander was conferred with the Cross of the Federal Order of Merit by German President Frank-Walter Steinmeier in recognition of his services to music and culture.

Through his work as founder and artistic director of the Schumann Camerata and their pioneering 440Hz series in Dusseldorf, as founding artistic director of the Deutsche Kammerphilharmonie Bremen's *Zukunftslabor* and through his regular tours leading Germany's National Youth Orchestra, inspiring future generations of classical musicians and listeners has always been central to Alexander's work.

He regularly gives informed and passionate pre- and post-concert talks on his programs as well as numerous interviews and podcasts on the role of classical music in society. Over the course of nine years in Nuremberg alone, he hosted more than half a million people at the annual Klassik Open Air concerts—Europe's largest classical music event.

Born in London in October 1979 to celebrated concert pianists, Alexander studied cello and conducting in Germany and first gained widespread attention when he was unanimously awarded first prize at the 2005 Leeds Conductors' Competition, with the press describing him as "the most exciting and gifted young conductor to have taken this highly prestigious award."

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