Artis—Naples
Home of The Baker Museum
& Naples Philharmonic

5833 Pelican Bay Boulevard
Naples, Florida 34108-2740

239-597-1111
artisnaples.org

Alexander Shelley
Sharon and Timothy Ubben Artistic and Music Director

One of the foremost conductors of his generation, Alexander Shelley is "a natural communicator, both on and off the podium" (*The Daily Telegraph*), appearing regularly across six continents with the world's finest orchestras and soloists. A passionate and articulate advocate for the role of music in society, Alexander has spearheaded multiple award-winning and ground-breaking projects, unlocking creativity in the next generation and bringing symphonic music to new audiences.

With a conducting technique described as "immaculate, everything crystal clear" (*Yorkshire Post*), and with a "precision, distinction and beauty of gesture not seen since Lorin Maazel" (*Le Devoir*), Alexander is known for the integrity of his interpretations and for his creative programming. He has led over 50 major world premieres; highly praised cycles of Beethoven, Schumann and Brahms symphonies; operas; ballets; and innovative multimedia productions.

Alexander appears regularly across six continents with the world's finest orchestras, 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.

As an artistic and music director, Alexander is known for bold programming rooted in collaboration, creation and innovation. Since 2024, he has served as the Sharon and Timothy Ubben Artistic and Music Director of Artis—Naples, where he provides artistic leadership for the Naples Philharmonic and the wider multidisciplinary arts organization. In 2026-27, he also leads the Pacific Symphony in Southern California into a thrilling new era as its artistic and music director. Additionally, this season marks Alexander's first full season as principal conductor of the National Symphony Orchestra Ireland (NSOI).

During 2026-27, Alexander makes his debut with the Gstaad Festival Orchestra in Switzerland as a part of the Menuhin Festival's 70th season. He also returns as a guest conductor with the Seattle Symphony, performing Cusson's *1Q84* alongside works by Sibelius and Rachmaninoff with pianist Benjamin Grosvenor.

Alexander served as music director of Canada's National Arts Centre Orchestra (NAC Orchestra) for 11 years and—assuming the role at age 35—was the youngest-ever director in its history. During his tenure, the ensemble was praised as "an orchestra transformed… hungry, bold, and unleashed" (*Ottawa Citizen*). His programming is credited for turning the ensemble "almost overnight… into one of the more audacious orchestras in North America" (*Maclean's*). Through his leadership, the NAC Orchestra championed Canadian creation through its major tours, critically acclaimed recordings and the commissioning of more than 50 new works by Canadian composers. His work reflected the fabric and values of Canada, engaging communities from coast to coast through inclusive programming, compelling storytelling and visionary partnerships.

Alexander also served as principal associate conductor of the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra from 2015 to 2026, touring both nationally and internationally with the ensemble, while also curating a series at London's Cadogan Hall. As a conductor of opera, he has led productions with the Royal Danish Opera, Canadian Opera Company, Deutsche Kammerphilharmonie Bremen and Opéra National de Montpellier. His eight-year tenure as chief conductor of the Nürnberger Symphoniker concluded in 2017, a period that was hailed as a golden era for the orchestra.

Born in London to celebrated concert pianists, Alexander studied cello and conducting in Germany and 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."

Alexander is the winner of the ECHO prize and the Deutsche Gründerpreis. He also received the Cross of the Federal Order of Merit from German President Frank-Walter Steinmeier in recognition of his services to music and culture.

November 2026