

BARNABY PALMER

CONDUCTOR

Music Director, Armonia Kronstadt | Symphonic • Opera • Film with Live Orchestra • Audience Engagement

barnabypalmerconductor.com | barnabypalmer@gmail.com | +40 746 699 941 | Romania / International



PROFILE

British-American conductor with more than twenty years of international experience in symphonic, operatic and film repertoire. Current Music Director of Armonia Kronstadt; former Music Director of the Shanxi Symphony Orchestra and Sichuan Symphony Orchestra, Resident Conductor of the Guangxi Symphony Orchestra and SHIYO Symphony Orchestra, and Artistic Director of San Francisco Lyric Opera for a decade. Professional engagements span Europe, Asia and the United States. Brings clear, efficient rehearsal technique and an ability to build musical cohesion and achieve strong performance results within limited rehearsal time, together with imaginative programming and a particular commitment to connecting musicians and audiences through thoughtful context and direct communication.

CURRENT & RECENT ENGAGEMENTS

Music Director, Armonia Kronstadt

Armonia Kronstadt - Sânpetru, Braşov

Brăila Philharmonic

Disney in Concert - Shanghai Philharmonic

Shanxi Taiyuan Symphony Orchestra - Subscription Concert

Chicago Summer Opera - Symphonic Program & Handel's Silla

2026-present

23 Oct 2026 • 18:30

March 2026

Oct 2025

Oct 2025

July 2025

PRINCIPAL CONDUCTING APPOINTMENTS

Music Director

Armonia Kronstadt | Braşov, Romania

2026-present

- Artistic leadership, programming and conducting of the ensemble's professional concert activity.

Music Director

Shanxi Symphony Orchestra | Taiyuan, China

2015-2020

- Season programming; regular subscription and outreach concerts; organization and leadership of national concert tours.

Resident Conductor

Guangxi Symphony Orchestra | Nanning, China

2018-2020

- Season programming and regular subscription-series conducting.

Resident Conductor

SHIYO Symphony Orchestra | Shanghai, China

2014-2015

- Auditioned and selected members, programmed seasons and conducted the orchestra's concerts.

Music Director

Sichuan Symphony Orchestra | China

2012-2014

- Programmed seasons, supervised auditions, authored the orchestra's first season plan and founded an intra-orchestra concerto competition.

Assistant Conductor to Iván Fischer

Budapest Festival Orchestra | Budapest, Hungary

2010-2012

- Cover conductor; assisted rehearsals; conducted educational and outreach concerts.

Assistant Conductor to Marc Minkowski

Les Musiciens du Louvre-Grenoble | France

2011-2012

- Cover conductor; assisted rehearsals; conducted educational and outreach concerts.

Artistic Director & Conductor

San Francisco Lyric Opera | San Francisco, USA

2001-2010

- Led artistic planning and season programming; hired artistic and production personnel; conducted opera performances and outreach concerts; maintained financial discipline while developing the company.

SELECTED GUEST CONDUCTING

Orquestra Simfònica de Barcelona	Shenyang Symphony Orchestra	Chicago Summer Opera
Konzerthausorchester Berlin	Kunming Nie Er Symphony Orchestra	Opera San Jose
Hong Kong Philharmonic Orchestra	Braşov Philharmonic	La Crosse Symphony Orchestra
Shanghai Philharmonic	Sibiu Philharmonic	Livermore Opera
Evergreen Symphony Orchestra	Filarmonica Banatul Timișoara	American Philharmonic
Zhejiang Symphony Orchestra	Brăila Philharmonic	Bohemian Orchestra
Harbin Symphony Orchestra	Opera Braşov	Celibidache Festival Orchestra

SELECTED OPERA & STAGE

Conducted more than 30 complete operas, including works by Mozart, Verdi, Puccini, Wagner, Britten, Donizetti, Rossini, Bizet, Gounod and Offenbach. Selected repertoire and premieres:

- Bizet - Carmen
- Britten - The Rape of Lucretia; The Turn of the Screw
- Donizetti - Don Pasquale; L'elisir d'amore; Lucia di Lammermoor
- Gounod - Roméo et Juliette
- Mozart - Le nozze di Figaro; Così fan tutte; Don Giovanni; Die Entführung aus dem Serail; Die Zauberflöte
- Puccini - Madama Butterfly; La bohème; Tosca
- Rossini - Il barbiere di Siviglia; La Cenerentola
- Verdi - La traviata; Rigoletto; Un ballo in maschera; Il trovatore; Aida
- Wagner - Das Rheingold; Die Walküre; Der fliegende Holländer
- World premieres: Dr. Jekyll's Advokat (Denmark); The Crucible 'Machine'; Casanova; Tchaikovsky's Masque

FILM WITH LIVE ORCHESTRA

Experienced conductor of live-to-picture film music and large-scale Disney and Pixar productions, including Disney in Concert with the Shanghai Philharmonic (October 2025).

SELECTED SYMPHONIC REPERTOIRE

Beethoven	- Symphonies 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8; Piano Concertos 4, 5	Mahler	- Symphony 1; Lieder eines fahrenden Gesellen
Berlioz	- Symphonie fantastique	Mozart	- Symphonies 35, 36, 38, 39, 40; Piano Concerto 20
Brahms	- Symphonies 1, 2, 4	Rimsky-Korsakov	- Scheherazade
Bruckner	- Symphonies 3, 7	Schumann	- Symphonies 1-4
Debussy	- La mer; Nocturnes	Shostakovich	- Symphony 1
Dvořák	- Symphonies 7, 8, 9	Sibelius	- Symphonies 1, 3
Elgar	- Enigma Variations	Tchaikovsky	- Symphonies 3-6; Violin Concerto; Piano Concerto 1; 1812 Overture
Gershwin	- An American in Paris; Rhapsody in Blue		
Holst	- The Planets	Wagner	- Overtures to Tannhäuser and Die Meistersinger; excerpts from Lohengrin

CONDUCTING PEDAGOGY & HIGHER EDUCATION

Professor of Graduate & Undergraduate Music

Academy of Art University | San Francisco, USA

2008-2022

- Taught music theory, harmony, counterpoint, sight-singing/ear training, notation and scoring, music history and conducting seminars.

Guest Conductor / Conducting Instructor / Lecturer

Shanghai Orchestra Academy | Shanghai, China

- Conducting, score study, rehearsal technique, orchestral coaching and professional musicianship.

Guest Conductor / Lecturer / Coach

Central Conservatory of Music | Beijing, China

Guest Conductor

Shanghai Conservatory of Music | Shanghai, China

Program Founder / Conducting Faculty

Jiangxi University | China

- Created the university's first opera program and conducting program.

Guest Professor & Lecturer

Huazhong University of Science and Technology | China

- Opera history, symphonic music and clarinet performance.

Lecturer

Stanford University | California, USA

- History of Italian Opera.

CONDUCTING STUDIES & MENTORS

Iván Fischer • Alan Gilbert • Larry Rachleff • Michael Morgan

EDUCATION

PGCEi - Education | University of Nottingham, UK 2018

Master of Music - Music Performance | University of Michigan, Ann Arbor 1999

Bachelor of Music - Music Performance | Cleveland Institute of Music 1997

ADDITIONAL ARTISTIC LEADERSHIP

Head of Music Performance 2021-2023

Jerudong International School | Brunei Darussalam

• Led music performance across the campus, conducted ensembles and organized major performance activity.

Artist in Residence 2015-2018

YK Pao School | Shanghai, China

• Founded orchestras and chamber ensembles, organized community outreach and expanded the school's performance culture.

PROFESSIONAL PROFILE

US / UK citizen with Romanian residence permit. Professional clarinetist as well as conductor. Available for guest conducting, music-director appointments, opera, film-with-live-orchestra projects, conducting residencies and university/conservatory positions.