

# SARAH IOANNIDES

Conductor

Hailed by the *New York Times* as a conductor with “unquestionable strength and authority,” Sarah Ioannides’ dynamic presence and energy on the podium has won praise from audiences and critics alike for her fresh ideas, original programs and exciting performances. Currently Music Director of the Spartanburg Philharmonic Orchestra since 2005, Ioannides also served as Music Director for the El Paso Symphony Orchestra from 2005-2011. As such she has introduced compelling new multi-media productions, commissioned world premieres, developed educational programs and enriched the orchestras’ repertoire with numerous first time performances. Her dedication to develop and sustain an enthusiastic audience for classical music has attracted new generations of music lovers bearing a powerful impact on the cities’ cultural quality.

Maintaining an active guest conducting schedule, her engagements span five continents. Notable recent American engagements include the Rochester Philharmonic Orchestra, North Carolina Symphony, Chattanooga Symphony, Cincinnati Symphony Orchestra, and Annapolis Symphony. Ioannides has conducted many orchestras in Europe with highlights including the Orchestra Nationale de Lyon, Flemish Radio Orchestra, Gothenburg Symphony, Cyprus State Orchestra, Västerås Sinfonietta, Württembergisches Kammerorchester Heilbronn and the Nordic Chamber Orchestra. Notable South American and Asian engagements include the Simon Bolivar Youth Orchestra and Orquesta Sinfonica Municipal de Caracas, and Daejeon Philharmonic. She has also appeared in special engagements with the Los Angeles Philharmonic, the New World Symphony and the London Symphony Orchestra.

In 2009 Ioannides was named in the *Los Angeles Times* as one of six female conductors breaking the glass podium. Noted in the *New York Times* as part of “a new wave of female conductors in their late 20’s through early 40’s,” Ioannides is the recipient of numerous prizes and scholarships. Highlights include: a Fulbright Scholarship, Women’s Conducting Grant from the League of American Orchestras, The Kenneth Tyghe Memorial Prize (Audience Prize) as a finalist in the Leeds Conducting Competition, the Bruno Walter Assistant Conductor Chair; one of two awards presented by the Bruno Walter Foundation in the United States during the 2003-2004 season, the Presser Award from the Curtis Institute and the Janet Watson Prize from Oxford University and the JoAnn Falletta award for the most promising female conductor.

Her recent recording with The Royal Philharmonic Orchestra and violinist Lara St. John was released to great critical acclaim and reviewed by *Gramophone* music magazine commenting “directed with panache by Sarah Ioannides”. The disc features the *Suite from the Red Violin* by John Corigliano and two world premiers, including the Australian composer, Matthew Hindson’s Violin Concerto.

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Ioannides was appointed as Assistant Conductor of the Cincinnati Symphony Orchestra from 2002 through 2004 under Music Director Paavo Jarvi, and served as the Music Director of the Cincinnati Symphony Youth Orchestra. Prior to that appointment Ioannides was Assistant Conductor to Academy Award winning composer Tan Dun touring Japan, China, Hong Kong, Russia, France, Germany, Sweden, the USA and the UK. As such, she conducted the Gothenburg Symphony Orchestra, the BBC Concert Orchestra, the Flemish Radio Orchestra, BBC Symphony Orchestra, London Sinfonietta and the Oregon Bach Festival. Sarah Ioannides was the choir director for the RIAS Kammerchor and production coordinator for the world premiere performance of Tan Dun's *Water Passion after St. Matthew* and at the request of Tan Dun, she conducted his *Water Passion* in Perth, Australia as the first conductor to perform this work other than the composer.

In the field of opera, Ioannides led the European premiere of Stephen Paulus' *The Woodlanders*, garnering acclaim from the *Times*, *The Guardian*, *The Independent* and *The Telegraph* in the UK. Additional production highlights include the works of Mozart, Britten and Offenbach, as well as numerous collaborations with opera companies and festivals worldwide. *Opera-Opera* depicted Ioannides' lyrical conducting technique as one "with the most persuasive of gentle textures, she coaxed from the performers an extraordinary array of sounds. She was grace personified."

Born in Australia, Ioannides was raised in England. Studying violin, piano and French horn from an early age, she entered Oxford University on an instrumental scholarship earning a Bachelor of Arts and Masters of Music degree. At 19 she was won a conducting audition to be Music Director of *Oxford University Philharmonia* and shortly after was appointed Music Director of Oxford University Opera. Ioannides then received an Advanced Certificate in Conducting from the Guildhall School of Music in London, a Diploma in Conducting from the Curtis Institute of Music where she studied as a Fulbright scholar, and a Masters in Orchestral Conducting from the Juilliard School of Music, where she served also as Assistant Conductor to her teacher, Otto Werner-Mueller.

Ioannides has been the subject of numerous articles in the national press recently including *Southern Living* Texas and South Carolina issues, *Pink*, *Working Mother* in 2008 and 2011 and *Twins* magazines. Ioannides lives in Connecticut with her husband and three children, and maintains a base in both South Carolina and England.

Visit

[www.sarahioannides.net](http://www.sarahioannides.net)  
for additional information

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## APPOINTMENTS:

- 2005 - present**                    **Music Director, SPARTANBURG PHILHARMONIC, SC**  
**2005 - 2011**                    **Music Director, EL PASO SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA, TX**
- 2004 - 2005**                    **Guest Music Director, DESSOFF CHOIRS, New York, NY**
- 2002 - 2004**                    **Assistant Conductor, CINCINNATI SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA**  
**Music Director, CINCINNATI SYMPHONY YOUTH ORCHESTRA**  
Responsibilities included covering all CSO Classical season concerts, assisting all conductors, full artistic direction of the CSO Youth Orchestra, conducting education concerts and other season concerts, assistant producer in CD recording and public speaking engagements.
- 1999 - 2003**                    **Assistant Conductor to COMPOSER/CONDUCTOR, TAN DUN**  
Cover Conductor, Choir Director and Production Coordinator for multimedia premieres, festivals and performances in Japan, China, Hong Kong, Russia, France, Germany, Sweden, USA and UK
- 1997 – 2000**                    **Music Director, SWARTHMORE COLLEGE ORCHESTRA**  
**Associate in Performance, SWARTHMORE COLLEGE, PA**  
Teacher and lecturer for advanced counterpoint, ear training and *solfege* courses, individual tutor for score reading courses and conducting
- 1994 – 1995**                    **Music Director, OXFORD UNIVERSITY OPERA, UK**  
Music Director performing European premiere of Stephen Paulus' *The Woodlanders*, recognized by the national press. Worked on the revisions with composer. Cast of London professionals. Formerly invited as guest conductor to lead performances of Mozart's *Il Seraglio* in 1993
- 1992 – 1993**                    **Music Director, OXFORD PHILHARMONIA, UK**
- 1990 - 1993**                    **Music Director, WORCESTER-SOMERVILLE ORCHESTRA & CHOIR, UK**

## EDUCATION:

- 1998 - 2000**                    **JUILLIARD SCHOOL OF MUSIC, NEW YORK**  
Masters of Music in Orchestral Conducting, Assistant to Otto-Werner Mueller, Bruno Walter Scholar
- 1996 - 1998**                    **CURTIS INSTITUTE OF MUSIC, PHILADELPHIA**  
Diploma in Conducting, Friends of Curtis Fellowship, Presser Award, Assistant to Opera Studio
- 1993 - 1994**                    **GUILDHALL SCHOOL OF MUSIC, LONDON**  
Advanced Certificate in Conducting, Awarded the Conducting Prize
- 1990 - 1993**                    **OXFORD UNIVERSITY, SOMERVILLE COLLEGE**  
Master of Arts awarded following B.A. degree in Music, Instrumental Scholarship

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**Professional guest engagements:** Royal Philharmonic Orchestra, Orchestre Nationale de Lyon, Cincinnati Symphony Orchestra, Rochester Philharmonic Orchestra, North Carolina Symphony, Chattanooga Symphony Orchestra, Gothenburg Symphony Orchestra, Municipal Orchestra of Caracas, New World Symphony, Daejoen Philharmonic (Korea), Nordic Chamber Orchestra (Sweden), Västerås Sinfornietta, Swedish Wind Ensemble, Flemish Radio Orchestra, Annapolis Symphony, Naumburg Orchestra, Millennium Chamber Ensemble, Perth International Festival, Indiana University Philharmonic Orchestra, SüdWest Rundfunk Vokalensemble, Cyprus State Orchestra, RIAS Kammerchor, Oxford University Orchestra, Beata Moon Ensemble (NY), REMIX Ensemble (Portugal), Wuttenbergisches Kammerorchester and the Simon Bolivar Youth Orchestra.

**Guest engagements as assistant conductor:** BBC Symphony Orchestra, BBC Concerts Orchestra, Stuttgart Bachakademie, Orchestra de Lyon, National Symphony Orchestra, Hong Kong Philharmonic, Dresden Sinfoniker, London Sinfonietta, White Nights Festival (Russia), Opera Company of Philadelphia, Brooklyn Academy of Music, Havant Orchestras, Spoleto Festival (Italy), Manilva Opera Festival (Spain).

**Special guest engagements:** London Symphony Orchestra, La Philharmonic /Synergy, BBC Singers, Kyoto International Students Festival, Curtis Opera Theatre, British Youth Opera, Guildhall Symphony, Women's Philharmonic, CA.

## **AWARDS:**

- 2008 **League of American Orchestras, Women's Conducting Grant**
- 2004 **Bruno Walter Assistant Conductor Chair**, Cincinnati Symphony Orchestra  
This award, available to orchestras with Assistant Conductor positions, was one of two awards presented by the Bruno Walter Foundation in the US during the 2003-04 season.
- 2001 **JoAnn Falletta Award**, administered to female conductor seriously pursuing a conducting career
- 1999 **The Kenneth Tyghe Memorial Prize**  
The Leeds Conducting Competition
- 1997 **Presser Award**, from Curtis Institute of Music to study conducting in St. Petersburg with Music academy
- 1996 **Fulbright Scholarship & Fulbright Association Travel Award**
- 1996 **Wingate Scholarship**, awarded to individuals of great potential to undertake pioneering or original work of intellectual, scientific, artistic or environmental value, and to outstandingly talented musicians for advanced training
- 1995 **Alice Horsmann Traveling Fellowship** from Oxford University
- 1995 **Janet Watson Prize** Somerville College, Oxford University

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## PAST ENGAGEMENTS:

- 2004 / 2005 **National Symphony Orchestra**, Washington, Assistant and Cover Conductor  
**Perth International Festival**, Tan Dun Water Passion  
**Spartanburg Philharmonic Orchestra**, Guest Conductor  
**Desoff Choirs**, New York, Guest Music Director  
**Annapolis Symphony Orchestra**, Guest Conductor
- 2002 / 2003 **Naumburg Orchestra**, New York, Guest Conductor  
**Flemish Radio Orchestra**, Guest Conductor on CD / DVD of Tan Dun  
**Cincinnati Symphony Youth Orchestra**, Seven to eight concerts each season  
**Cincinnati Symphony Orchestra**, Bach and Beyond Series and Education Concert guest  
**LA Philharmonic/Synergy**, Participant  
**New World Symphony**, Guest Conductor for reading  
**Oxford University Orchestra**, Guest Conductor, Sheldonian Theatre  
**Brooklyn Academy of Music**, Assistant Conductor to Tan Dun  
**Starling Showcase**, Cincinnati  
**Cincinnati Conservatory of Music Concert Orchestra**, Regular Guest Conductor
- 2001 / 2002 **Beata Moon Ensemble**, Columbia University, Miller Theatre, NY  
**Oregon Bach Festival**, Guest Conductor for Tan Dun, Orchestra Theatre II  
**Gothenburg Symphony Orchestra**, 3-day orchestral preparation for two concerts  
**Oxford University Chamber Orchestra**, Guest Conductor  
**International Bachakademie**, Performances in Liederhalle with Choir, Orchestra and Soloists of Festivalensemble (Missa per Rossini & Verdi Requiem)  
**REMIX Ensemble**, Casa da Musica, Porto Celebrations 2001  
Six World Premieres by Portuguese Composers
- 2000 / 2001 **London Symphony Orchestra**, Public master class with Pierre Boulez, Barbican Hall, (Schoenberg Piano Concerto)  
**Flemish Radio Orchestra**, orchestral preparation for Tan Dun 4 Orchestral Theaters  
**London Sinfonietta/BBC Symphony Orchestra/London Voices/Yo-Yo Ma**, Assistant Conductor, Fire Crossing Water Multimedia Festival, Production Coordinator  
**SWR Vokalensemble**, Preparation for Kagel's Entführung im Konzertsaal  
Studio recording for SüdWest Radio, Ligeti Night and Day, Stravinsky Ave Maria  
**BBC Concerts Orchestra/London Voices**, Assistant to the conductor and producer on Sony recording, conducted brass over-dubs for BBC Millennium 2000 Today  
**RIAS Kammerchor**, Choir Director and assistant conductor, Tan Dun Water Passion  
World Premier Performance and Live Recording  
**Orchestre de Lyon**, Assistant Conductor, Cite de la Musique, Paris  
**Dresden Sinfoniker**, Assistant Conductor, Dresden  
**Hong Kong Philharmonic**, Assistant Conductor, Production Manager, to celebrate 4<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Hong Kong reunification with China  
**White Nights Festival**, Choir Director and Production Manager in Mariinsky Theatre with St. Petersburg Chamber Chorus

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## WORLD PREMIERS:

2011	Spartanburg Philharmonic	Dario Marianelli	<i>Pride &amp; Prejudice Suite</i>
2011	Carnegie Hall: Link Up	Thomas Cabaniss	<i>The Orchestra Sings</i>
2011	Spartanburg Philharmonic	David Berry	<i>The Search for Stephanie Thayne</i>
2008	El Paso Symphony Orchestra, El Paso	Oswaldo Mendoza	<i>A La Deriva</i>
2008	Nordic Chamber Orchestra, Sweden	Venla Hinnemo	<i>Reactions of the Mind</i>
2008	Cyprus State Orchestra	Vassos Nicolaou	<i>Fractus</i>
2007	El Paso Symphony Orchestra	Luis Tinoco	<i>Ascent</i>
2007	Royal Philharmonic Orchestra	Matthew Hindson	<i>Violin Concerto (recording)</i>
2006	El Paso Symphony Orchestra	Steve Reich	<i>Desert Music</i>
2006	Spartanburg Philharmonic	Stuart Goodyear	<i>Multimedia Film by Passero</i> <i>Caribbiana (Revised version)</i>
2002	Beata Moon Ensemble, NY	Beata Moon	<i>Fission</i>
2001	Women's Philharmonic, SF	Rebecca Oswald	<i>Sinfonia No.1</i>
2001	REMIX Ensemble, Portugal	Luis Tinoco	<i>Invention on Landscape</i>
2001	REMIX Ensemble, Portugal	Patricia Almeida	<i>Argumentum</i>
2001	REMIX Ensemble, Portugal	Sara Carvalho	<i>Escadas com Estorias</i>
2001	REMIX Ensemble, Portugal	Nuno Corte-Real	<i>Concerto Vedras Op. 23</i>
2001	REMIX Ensemble, Portugal	Jose Ferreira	<i>(un)Broken</i>
2001	REMIX Ensemble, Portugal	Joao Madureira	<i>Glosa</i>
2001	Guildhall Ensemble, Paris	Laurent Torres	<i>L'amere consolation</i> <i>ne travaille pas</i>
2001	Guildhall Ensemble, Paris	Julien Copeaux	<i>San Titre</i>
2000	RIAS Choir Director Bachakademie, Stuttgart	Tan Dun	<i>Water Passion After St. Matthew</i> <i>(live recording)</i>
2000	Swarthmore College Orchestra	Thomas Witman	<i>Afterimage</i>
1999	Juilliard Ensemble	Kati Agocs	<i>Principia for String Orchestra</i>
1999	Juilliard Ensemble	Paula Prestini	<i>Danza</i>

## US PREMIERS & EUROPEAN PREMIERS

2011	Rochester Philharmonic Orchestra	Matthew Hindson	<i>Violin Concerto</i>
2008	El Paso Symphony Orchestra	Victoria Borisova-Ollas	<i>Open Ground</i>
2009	El Paso Symphony Orchestra	Dario Marianelli	<i>Atonement Suite</i>
1995	Oxford University Opera	Stephen Paulus	<i>The Woodlanders</i>

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## REVIEW CLIPPINGS:

**“... unquestionable strength and authority.”**

*New York Times*

**"The Royal Philharmonic Orchestra.....directed with panache by Sarah Ioannides"**

*Gramophone Magazine*

**“...ravishing and authoritative.....”**

*Democrat and Chronicle (Rochester)*

**“... Sarah Ioannides’ accomplished sympathetic conducting ...”**

*Financial Times (London)*

**“Ioannides brought out genuine warmth in the tone of the RPO with the slightest of gestures.....The second half of the program was lush and well executed. Claude Debussy's "La Mer" was true to its character, perfect in tempo and pacing, and created an emotional tone that captured the melancholy of the seas.”**

*Rochester City Newspaper*

**“Ioannides has a clear technique and is an appealing presence on the podium. The Cincinnati Symphony Orchestra played well for her, twice bringing the good-sized crowd to its feet ... Ioannides inspired lushness in the strings in Kodaly’s *Summer Evening* ... Ioannides’ personal stamp was one of clarity.”**

*Cincinnati Enquirer*

**"The young but already experienced guest conductor Ioannides, showed refined leadership. She was especially impressive in the Mozart symphony, free from both sheet music and mannerism. "**

*Västerås Tidning*

**“she transfers her fine musical sense to the orchestra producing breathtaking moments.....**

**A TREMENDOUS PERFORMANCE”**

*Heilbronn Stimme*

**"Ioannides was the ruler of her orchestral domain, eliciting the most sensitive playing. The tight ensemble was most impressive in a work that easily could become fragmented without a sure hand at the musical helm....an impressive debut.”**

*Chattanooga Times*

**“...this was a fine performance under the sure hand of conductor Sarah Ioannides.”**

*The Australian*

**“Ioannides opened with an energized performance of Brahms’ *Hungarian Dance No. 1*. She is elegant to watch, active and keenly expressive.”**

*Cincinnati Post*

**“Sarah Ioannides produced a delicacy and tenderness in parts of Elgar’s cello concerto that would have made even the most jaded listener hear it with fresh ears.”**

*Portsmouth News (UK)*

**“The entire work was a breathtaking event and ended in a flamboyant climax”**

*El Paso Inc*

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**“IOANNIDES BATON DRIVES INTOXICATING PERFORMANCE..”**

**(headline)** *El Paso Times*

**“Sarah Ioannides conducted J.C. Bach’s D Major Symphony with enviable control.”**

*News (Portsmouth UK)*

**“Sarah Ioannides kept the coolest of heads in a tautly controlled performance.”** *Times (London)*

*From European Premiere of Stephen Paulus’ Opera, The Woodlanders*

**“...a very capable conductor in Sarah Ioannides...”**

*Independent on Sunday (London)*

*From European Premiere of Stephen Paulus’ Opera, The Woodlanders*

**“the Spartanburg Philharmonic Orchestra reminded us of the innovative programming that has come to characterize the orchestra under the direction of Sarah Ioannides ”**

*Spartanburg Herald Journal (published by ASOL In The News)*

**“PASSION FLOODS SENSES (headline)....As a multimedia experience, Water Passion, conducted in Perth by Sarah Ioannides, comes across with stunning power”**

*The West Australian*

**“The Perth International Arts Festival’s music centerpiece *The Water Passion* received a standing ovation from the audience in a packed Concert Hall. Post performance, guests met principal singers and congratulated the conductor on an outstanding performance of this unusual modern work.”**

*Western Suburbs Weekly, Perth*

**“MAESTRA IOANNIDES OPENS SEASON WITH HEAVENLY PERFORMANCE”**

**(headline)** *Middle Tyger Times, South Carolina Debut concert as Music Director*

**“The concert, given by Remix-Ensemble Casa de Música, under the direction of a committed and very convincing conductor Sarah Ioannides, illustrates my previous words...The prestigious Remix-Ensemble under the excellent direction of Sarah Ioannides, offered truly contemporary music...”** (6 world premieres)

*Il Público (Portugal)*

**“From the conductor Sarah Ioannides we had beauty and competence. What more can we ask?”**

*Publico (Portugal)*

**“Sarah Ioannides conducted serenely. With the most persuasive of gentle textures, she coaxed from the performers an extraordinary array of sounds. She was grace personified.”**

*Opera-Opera (Australia)*

**“SYMPHONY FINALE A THRILLING EXPERIENCE (headline).... Respighi’s *The Pines of Rome* concluded the evening, and once again, Ioannides was dazzling as she led the orchestra in an exhilarating performance”.**

*El Paso Times*