



For Immediate Release

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**Six Conductors Selected to Lead the Nashville Symphony at the  
League of American Orchestras  
2018 Bruno Walter National Conductor Preview**

**Prestigious Conductor Showcase Takes Place  
April 3-4 in Nashville, TN**

**Free Concert at the Schermerhorn Symphony Center  
on April 4 at 7pm CST will be Live-Streamed**



New York, NY (February 15, 2018) – Six highly-skilled and dynamic conductors have been selected to participate in the League of American Orchestras [Bruno Walter National Conductor Preview](#), April 3-4, 2018 at Nashville's Schermerhorn Symphony Center. The League's two-day showcase is one of the field's most prestigious pathways for orchestra search committees to encounter new talent as they meet the conductors, observe them in rehearsal settings, and experience their high-caliber artistry in person.

[Ankush Kumar Bahl](#), [Mélisse Brunet](#), [Nadège Foofat](#), [Raúl Gómez-Rojas](#), [Lee Mills](#), and [Lidiya Yankovskaya](#) will display their versatility by leading the GRAMMY® Award-winning [Nashville Symphony](#) in an eclectic

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program of selections of works by Beethoven, Bernstein, Debussy, Tchaikovsky, and Kip Winger.

“For more than 20 years, the League’s Bruno Walter National Conductor Preview has been one of the orchestra field’s primary methods for identifying conducting talent, offering a unique opportunity for search committees to experience the breadth of artistry only a showcase setting can provide,” commented Jesse Rosen, League of American Orchestras President and CEO. “We’ve presented the event in Nashville three times in the past nine years alone—a testament to the excellence of the Nashville Symphony and its Music Director, Giancarlo Guerrero, a 2001 Preview alum. The renowned Schermerhorn Symphony Center is a wonderful venue for audiences to experience this diverse array of highly impressive conductors.”

**The Conductors:**

**Ankush Kumar Bahl** – recently Assistant Conductor, National Symphony Orchestra (Washington, DC); four Career Assistance Awards from Solti Foundation U.S.

**Mélisse Brunet** – recently Assistant Conductor, Northeastern Pennsylvania Philharmonic; Director of Orchestral Activities, Appalachian State University; Participant, Linda and Mitch Hart Institute for Women Conductors at The Dallas Opera

**Nadège Foofat** – Musical Assistant to the General Music Director, Kent Nagano, Hamburg Staatsoper and Philharmonisches Staatsorchester Hamburg

**Raúl Gómez-Rojas** – Music Director, Metropolitan Youth Symphony (Portland, OR)

**Lee Mills** – Resident Conductor, Brazilian Symphony Orchestra (Rio de Janeiro); two Career Assistance Awards from Solti Foundation U.S.

**Lidiya Yankovskaya** – Music Director, Chicago Opera Theater; Resident Artist, National Sawdust (Brooklyn, NY); Artistic Director/Conductor, Refugee Orchestra Project; Honorable Mention, Taki Concordia Conducting



Fellowship; Participant, Linda and Mitch Hart Institute for Women Conductors at The Dallas Opera

The conductors were chosen by an independent panel of leading music professionals from a pool of nearly 150 applications from around the world, and were selected for their experience, talent, leadership potential, and commitment to a career in service to American orchestras.

**The Event:**

On April 3 and 4, the six participating conductors will lead the Nashville Symphony in rehearsals, with music director search committee members, artist managers, orchestra executives, artistic administrators, and trustees from League member organizations across the country in attendance. Each conductor will rehearse a 15-minute program of contrasting musical selections to be performed in a **free public concert** at the Schermerhorn Symphony Center on **April 4 at 7 p.m.** The event will be streamed live, and made available on-demand for 45 days after posting in order to enable more people in the music industry as well as the general public to experience these exciting conductors in action. The League will also facilitate networking between the conductors and industry professionals, as well as feedback and mentorship by Nashville Symphony musicians and Maestro Guerrero.

**History of the Preview:**

The Bruno Walter National Conductor Preview has helped catalyze opportunities for conductors' careers for over 20 years. Since 1995, [the Preview has showcased 85 conductors](#), with more than 50 orchestras engaging participants in conductor/music director appointments as a direct result. Showcase alumni include Mei-Ann Chen, music director of the Chicago Sinfonietta; Alondra de la Parra, music director of the Queensland Symphony Orchestra; Giancarlo Guerrero, music director of the Nashville Symphony; Laura Jackson, music director of the Reno Philharmonic; Carolyn Kuan, music director of Hartford Symphony Orchestra; and Carlos Miguel



Prieto, music director of the Louisiana Philharmonic Orchestra and the YOA Orchestra of the Americas. The Preview last took place in 2016 in Nashville, TN, and, in 2013, in Jacksonville, FL.

### **Registration, Tickets, and More Information**

- **League of American Orchestras members** must register to attend the Bruno Walter National Conductor Preview, including rehearsals on April 3 and 4; a complimentary tour of the Schermerhorn Symphony Center; a luncheon with expert Henry Fogel, dean and distinguished professor of the arts at Roosevelt University's Chicago College of Performing Arts; an evening concert on April 4 at 7 p.m.; and a post-concert reception. [Register here.](#)
- **The general public** may reserve tickets for the free evening concert on April 4 through the Nashville Symphony's website (<https://www.nashvillesymphony.org/conductorpreview>) or by calling the Nashville Symphony Box Office at 615 687 6400.
- **Media** interested in covering the two-day event: please contact Rachelle Schlosser, the League's Director of Media Relations and Communications: [rschlosser@americanorchestras.org](mailto:rschlosser@americanorchestras.org)

For more information, including links to conductor bios and details, when available, about the live-streamed concert:

<https://americanorchestras.org/BrunoWalter>

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The **League of American Orchestras** leads, supports, and champions America's orchestras and the vitality of the music they perform. Its diverse membership of more than 2,000 organizations and individuals across North America runs the gamut from world-renowned orchestras to community groups, from summer festivals to student and youth ensembles, from conservatories to libraries, from businesses serving orchestras to individuals who love symphonic music. The only national organization dedicated solely to the orchestral experience, the League is a nexus of knowledge and innovation, advocacy, and leadership advancement. Its conferences and events, award-winning *Symphony* magazine, website, and other publications inform people around the world about orchestral activity and developments. Founded in 1942 and chartered by Congress in 1962, the League links a national network of thousands of instrumentalists, conductors, managers and administrators, board members, volunteers, and business partners. Visit [americanorchestras.org](http://americanorchestras.org).

The GRAMMY® Award-winning **Nashville Symphony** has earned an international reputation for its innovative programming and its commitment to performing, recording and commissioning works by America's leading composers. The Nashville Symphony has released 29 recordings on Naxos, which have received 24 GRAMMY® nominations and 13 GRAMMY® Awards, making it one of the most active recording orchestras in the country. The orchestra has also released recordings on Decca, Deutsche Grammophon and New West Records, among other labels. With more than 140 performances annually, the orchestra offers a broad range of classical, pops and jazz, and children's concerts, while its extensive education and community engagement programs reach 60,000 children and adults each year.

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*Photo Credits (Left to Right): Ankush Kumar Bahl (Fernando Diaz Vidaurri); Mélisse Brunet (Toko Shiiki Santos); Nadège Foofat (Rama Odi); Raúl Gómez-Rojas (Sarah E. Smith); Lee Mills (Britt Olsen-Ecker); Lidiya Yankovskaya (Kate Lemmon)*

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