

Darrell Ang

Artistic Director & Chief Conductor of the Franz Sichuan Symphony Orchestra

GENERAL MANAGEMENT

Since 2017, Darrell Ang has served as Artistic Director & Chief Conductor of the Sichuan Symphony Orchestra of China, building the ensemble into one of China's top-flight orchestras. He has been afforded the honour of spear-heading the growth and development of China's mid-Western landscape within the country's fast-paced and thriving musical life, by appointment of the regional government – a mission that is perfectly suited to Ang's entrepreneurial creative spirit. As such, he is now leading the creation of numerous projects, from large-scale orchestral touring circuits for international orchestras, to the creation of large-scale festivals and international education projects and competitions.

He is undoubtedly one of today's foremost interpreters of contemporary Asian composers, recognised no less by the San Francisco Opera when they invited him in 2022 to conduct and artistically lead a 7-show production of Bright Sheng's *Dream of the Red Chamber*; and he is also the conductor of choice for Lunar New Year celebrations with such leading orchestras as the Baltimore Symphony Orchestra (2024), the Melbourne Symphony Orchestra (2023), and the Rotterdam Philharmonic Orchestra (2023).

Ang is celebrated globally as being in possession of a unique artistic mind and prodigious intellect. Fluent in six languages (English, French, German, Italian, Mandarin Chinese, and Russian), he also commands an extensive breadth of repertoire – from studies in Baroque Music & Harpsichord (at Italy's Scuola di Musica di Fiesole), to a particular passion for French and Russian music of the 20th century, through to contemporary repertoire.

He is himself a prolific composer of symphonic, chamber, and solo instrumental works: his *Fanfare for a Frazzled Earth* – a symphonic overture about man's devastation of nature and the environment – was recently premiered by the Singapore National Youth Orchestra; and his *Kung Fu Concerto* (a concerto for orchestra and martial arts master) is being performed to great critical acclaim in China. Possessing this heightened insight into a composer's intentions, Ang is celebrated as one of the foremost interpreters of contemporary Asian repertoire, regularly conducting works by Chen Yi, Tan Dun, Zhou Long, Chen Qigang, Isang Yang, and the late Toru Takemitsu, in performances around the world.

In addition to Ang's skills in leading creative projects and institutions, he enjoys a prolific guest conducting career, regularly conducting the leading orchestras of Asia and the Far East. Recent and upcoming projects include those with Beijing's NCPA Orchestra, the Hong Kong Philharmonic Orchestra, National Taiwan Symphony Orchestra, NHK Symphony Orchestra Tokyo, NSO Taiwan, Singapore Symphony Orchestra, and the Yomiuri Nippon Symphony Orchestra Tokyo.

In Europe, highlights include the Estonian National Symphony Orchestra, London Philharmonic Orchestra, Orchestre Philharmonique de Radio-France, Polish Baltic Philharmonic Orchestra Gdańsk, Prague Symphony Orchestra, Real Orquesta Sinfónica de Sevilla, RTVE Symphony Orchestra Madrid, Rundfunk-Sinfonieorchester Berlin, St. Petersburg Philharmonic Orchestra, and the Vienna Radio Symphony Orchestra. In the United States, Ang debuts with the Baltimore Symphony Orchestra in 2024. and made his debut at the San Francisco Opera in 2022.

Alongside his symphonic expertise, Ang is highly skilled conductor of the operatic repertoire, working with other such world-renowned houses as the Mariinsky Theatre, National Taichung Theater, Opéra National de Bordeaux.

Darrell Ang shot into the international spotlight in 2007 when he took all three top prizes at the prestigious 50th Besançon International Conducting Competition: Grand Prize, Audience Prize, and Orchestra Prize. Other major competition wins include first prize at the 9th Antonio Pedrotti International Conducting Competition, and the 8th Arturo Toscanini International Conducting Competition. Additional accolades include the French honour of *Chevalier dans l'ordre des Arts et des Lettres* in 2015, as well as a GRAMMY nomination for his recording of music by Chinese composers Zhou Long and Chen Yi (one of several recordings for the Naxos label).

Previous titled positions include Music Director of the Orchestre Symphonique de Bretagne (2012-2015), the youngest ever Associate Conductor of the Singapore Symphony (2008-2013), and Music Director of the Singapore National Youth Orchestra (2010-2013), amongst others. Whilst studying in Russia, he co-founded the St. Petersburg Chamber Philharmonic Orchestra, by way of introducing contemporary music to Russian audiences.

Born in Singapore, Ang received his early musical education at the age of four, when he began to play the violin and the piano. After studies in Composition under Leong Yoon Pin in Singapore, he embarked on the study of Conducting in St. Petersburg with Professor Leonid Korchmar and Professor Alexander Polischuk – heirs to the grand tradition of the legendary Conducting Professor Ilya Musin – before continuing his education at Yale as the university's very first Conducting Fellow, under the tutelage of Shinik Hahm. Amongst his conducting mentors are such luminaries as Esa-Pekka Salonen and the late Lorin Maazel and Sir Colin Davis.