

DARKO BUTORAC, CONDUCTOR



Praised by the *Westdeutsche Zeitung* for his “exceptional combination of passion, elegance and well-timed pacing”, Darko Butorac has established himself as a conductor in demand with orchestras both in Europe and the Americas. He currently serves as the Music Director of the **Asheville Symphony** and the **Tallahassee Symphony Orchestra**.

Following his debut with the **Belgrade Philharmonic** in January 2011, Butorac was reengaged to conduct both the season finale and the opening concert of the 2012 season.

Other notable guest conducting engagements include performances with the **Deutsche Kammerphilharmonie Neuss** and the **Georgische Kammerorchester Ingolstadt** (Germany), the **Rubinstein Philharmonic of Lodz** (Poland), the **Xiamen Symphony** (China), the **Tallinn Sinfonietta** (Estonia), and the **Slovenian Radio Symphony Orchestra**. He has appeared at such prestigious venues as the Vienna Konzerthaus, the Gran Teatro Nacional of Lima, Belgrade's Kolarac Hall, the Teatro Magnani in Italy, and the Tartu, Aspen and St. Olav summer music festivals. From 2009 to 2013 he served as the principal conductor of the **Fidenza Opera Festival**.

Distinguished collaborations include soprano Renee Fleming, pianists Garrick Ohlsson and Jon Kimura Parker, tenor Lawrence Brownlee, cellist Colin Carr, clarinetist Anthony McGill, and Oscar-winning actor J.K. Simmons, among others. Recent highlights include performances with Béla Fleck, Ben Folds, Kishi Bashi, pianists Aaron Diehl and Stewart Goodyear, violinists William Hagen and Blake Pouliot, cellist Jamal Aliyev, and a New Year's Eve gala with vocalists Morgan James and Erica Gabriel. The 2023-2024 season includes collaborations with Olga Kern, Jon Kimura Parker, Noah Bendix Balgley, and Sterling Elliot.

Butorac helped his orchestras emerge from the pandemic by creating programs featuring over 75 short works for chamber orchestra formations, with a focus on presenting works by underperformed composers and minorities. The **Tallahassee Symphony** was one of the first orchestras in the United States to move to a fully virtual format, by committing to webcasting live performances in April of 2020.

As the Grand Prix Laureate and Gold Medalist of the Fourth International **Vakhtang Jordania Conducting Competition**, Butorac was invited to conduct orchestras across four continents and was also selected to participate at the **Bruno Walter National Conductor Preview**, hosted by the **League of American Orchestras** and the **Jacksonville Symphony**.

Butorac served as the Music Director of the **Missoula Symphony** from 2007-2019, marking a period of tremendous artistic growth of the orchestra. He challenged the ensemble with a broader repertoire, leading to greater engagement with the community and frequently sold-out performances.

Butorac is also in demand as a public speaker on leadership. His TEDx Montana talk on the "[Language of Conducting](#)" has over 185K views on YouTube. He has appeared as a speaker on behalf of Brighthouse, a division of BCG, and was the headline speaker at the Birla Carbon International Leadership Summit in Bangkok in 2018.

Darko is an avid traveler, having visited almost seventy countries, and is passionate about discovering the world and bringing people together through the beauty of music.