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Alumni News



Rising stars and AMFS alumni **Tong Chen** (top left), **Norman Huynh** (center left), and **Yuwon Kim** (bottom left), have been chosen from a pool of more than 150 applications from around the world for the Bruno Walter National Conductor Preview. The preview is a prestigious showcase of talented conductors poised for music directorships and major staff conducting positions of American orchestras.

The event will be held in person on March 16–17, 2022 at the Orpheum Theater in New Orleans, LA, and hosted by the Louisiana Philharmonic Orchestra. The event is free to attend; registration details will be released in December.

For more information, visit the **[League of American Orchestras](#)**.

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The Atlanta Symphony Orchestra performed the world premiere of pianist-composer **Conrad Tao's** Violin Concerto on September 17–18, with violinist **Stefan Jackiw** as soloist.

"My pieces tend to have some narrative content floating around in them, something that I'm thinking about in a bigger-picture sense. That said, the potential abstraction and expressivity of gesture and shape and relationships and materials—I'm always thinking about it. The violin concerto comes out of me, so there are a lot of things in it."

Read the full discussion with Conrad [here](#).



Keep in Touch

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Meet the Committee

Khori Dastoor Soprano, AMFS '03

Khori Dastoor has been named the new general director and chief executive officer of Houston Grand Opera (HGO), and holder of the Margaret Alkek Williams Chair. She joins HGO from Opera San José (OSJ), where she served as general director.

Dastoor serves on the Board of Directors for Opera America where she is the co-chair of the Learning and Leadership Council and is a founding member and mentor for the Mentorship Program for Opera Leaders of Color.

She is a graduate of the American Express Women in Music Leadership



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Academy and previously served as the San Francisco District director of Metropolitan Opera National Council Auditions. Previously, Dastoor served as associate director of The Packard Humanities Institute, a private family foundation dedicated to the conservation and advancement of art, music, and archaeology.

Dastoor holds a bachelor's degree in vocal performance from the New England Conservatory of Music and a master's degree in opera studies from UCLA. She and her husband are the proud parents of two young daughters.

Yarot Lafontaine

Edgar Stanton Audio Recording Institute, AMFS '07

When Yarot Lafontaine arrived at the AMFS in 2007, he was finishing his BBA with a concentration in Finance at the University of Puerto Rico and had the goal to expand his technical and artistic skills in order to pursue a career in live music recording. However, in 2008, Lafontaine received a summer internship at the investment bank Lehman Brothers in New York and went on to study law at the University of Puerto Rico School of Law.



After serving as a senior associate in a major law firm outside of San Juan, Puerto Rico he served as associate general counsel for a FinTech startup with operations in New York and Puerto Rico. Currently, he is the general counsel and chief compliance officer for a FinTech company providing banking, asset custody, and other financial services to the crypto-currency industry. In his free time he continues to enjoy learning about recording, playing drums and percussion, and hopes to bring his growing family to the Aspen Music Festival very, very soon.

Julia Dawson

Coloratura Mezzo, AMFS '12

Canadian coloratura mezzo Julia Dawson is a winner of the George London Award and the Anny-Schlemm Preis. She began her career at Oper Frankfurt as a member of the solo ensemble where she sang roles such as Angelina in *La cenerentola* and Goffredo in a new production of *Rinaldo* by Ted Huffman.

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Although much of her 2020/21 season was cancelled due to you-know-what, she was grateful for the chance to make music with members of Second City Toronto and the Toronto Symphony in *Mass Hysterical*.



Upcoming projects include the release of *Obscura Nox*, a musical short film and performance piece with music of Mozart and Iranian-Canadian composer Iman Habibi based on Plato's Allegory of the Cave. Mary Birnbaum directed the film, which Dawson conceived, co-produced, and performed.

Dawson was a member of the solo ensemble at Oper Frankfurt from 2017-2019 where she is also a graduate of the Opernstudio.

[See full bio here.](#)

Job Board

Institutional Giving Manager

Aspen Music Festival and School: Aspen, Colorado

For the full job description, click **[here](#)**. To apply, submit a cover letter and resume to **IGM@aspenmusic.org**.

Assistant Concertmaster

Section Violin, Viola, Flute, and Oboe

Boise Baroque Orchestra: Boise, Idaho

Contact **info@boisebaroque.org** for more information.

Oakland Symphony Chorus Manager

Oakland Symphony: Oakland, California

To apply, fill out the **[online application form](#)** and submit your resume to Katherine White, Operations and Finance Director, at **jobs@oaklandsymphony.org**.

Communications Coordinator

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“Communications Coordinator” in the subject line to Mollie Harris at marketing@lexphil.org.

Vice President & Chief Financial Officer

Jacksonville Symphony: Jacksonville, Florida

Submit a cover letter and resume to: Steven Libman, President and CEO,
at HR@jaxsymphony.org with “CFO” in subject line.

ASPEN MUSIC FESTIVAL AND SCHOOL

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