



Erik Ochsner, *conductor*

900 West 190th Street, #12N
New York, NY 10040

www.erikochsner.com

www.sonoschamberorch.org

[YouTube](#)

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Finnish-American conductor Erik Ochsner's versatility as a conductor has stretched across a broad range of repertoire: from conducting as few as five performers in contemporary and modern works, to leading 300 performers across 16 full length films using the Live in Concert format. As Principal Touring Conductor for *La La Land Live in Concert*, Ochsner conducted 50 performances worldwide of Justin Hurwitz's Academy Award and Grammy Award winning score. From Montreal to Melbourne and Moscow; from Stockholm to San Diego and Sofia, Bulgaria – audiences and critics alike have been praising Ochsner's energy, attention to detail and precise synchronization.

Most recently, he was invited by the Youngstown Symphony Orchestra to conduct Strauss' Overture to *Die Fledermaus*, Mozart Piano Concerto No. 23, and Mahler Symphony No. 1. Upcoming performances include *Star Wars 4: A New Hope*, *Star Wars 6: Return of the Jedi*, *Star Wars 7: The Force Awakens*, *Raiders of the Lost Ark* and *Home Alone*.

Ochsner conducted the world premiere of *Mary Poppins* (1964) with the Sydney Symphony Orchestra at the Sydney Opera House; made his debut with the San Francisco Symphony Orchestra conducting *Love Actually*; on 40 hours' notice, he flew to Taipei to conduct *Beauty and the Beast in Concert* to fill for an ailing colleague; at the Nanjing Forest Music Festival in China, he conducted a concert of 18 suites of Hollywood film music; Music Director of the 2017 Opera America New Works Showcase in New York City. In collaboration with the National Arts Centre Orchestra in Ottawa, Ochsner led the premiere of *The Music of Star Wars* featuring the iconic music of John Williams, as well as video game composers Gordy Haab and Kyle Newmaster.

Ochsner's long relationship with the Krakow International Film Music Festival have been hugely successful leading sold-out performances in a 16,000-seat arena of *Pixar in Concert*, *Frozen* and *Beauty and the Beast* (both performed in Polish), plus *Disney in Concert: The Magic of Music* with the Krakow Film Festival Youth Orchestra.

Film projects he has conducted include: *Back to the Future*, *Beauty and the Beast* (2017), *Batman* (1989), *Bugs Bunny at the Symphony*, *E.T. the Extra-Terrestrial*, *Frozen*, *Ghostbusters*, *La La Land*, *Lord of the Rings: Fellowship of the Ring*, *Love Actually*, *Mary Poppins* (1964), *Pirates of the Caribbean*, *Pixar in Concert*, *Star Trek* (2009), *Star Trek Into Darkness*, *Star Wars 4: A New Hope*, *Star Wars 5: The Empire Strikes Back* and *Star Wars 6: Return of the Jedi*.

Equally comfortable on the concert stage or leading opera, oratorio and multi-media performances, he has performed in Adelaide, Athens, Beijing, Budapest, Calgary, Dallas, Detroit, Indianapolis, Jakarta, Kitchener-Waterloo, Krakow, Leipzig, Louisiana, Melbourne, México City, Montreal, Monterrey, Moscow, Nashville, New York, Ottawa, Portland, Reykjavik, Richmond, Rochester, Round Top, San Antonio, San Diego, San Francisco, Seattle, Seoul, Shanghai, Sofia, South Bend, St. Louis, St. Petersburg, Stockholm, Sydney, Taipei, Tampere, Tokyo, Vancouver, Wellington, Youngstown.

He is Founder and Music Director of SONOS Chamber Orchestra which performed Rite of Spring in an arrangement for 4 pianos and 2 percussionists. The *New York Times* said, "All the hallmarks of a great "Rite" were here."

During an 8-year collaboration, Ochsner served as Rehearsal Conductor for Academy Award winning composer Tan Dun (*Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon*). Highlights include Assistant Conductor and Chorus Master for *The First Emperor* workshop, a Metropolitan Opera commission, and Cover Conductor with the Boston Symphony Orchestra for the world premiere of *The Map*, a multimedia cello featuring Yo-Yo Ma, with performances in Boston, Carnegie Hall, and Tanglewood.

The *Bulgarian Monitor* said, "Sensuality and synchronicity, matched by perfection, accompanied each of the melodies during *La La Land: Live in Concert*." *Radio Canada* wrote, "[Ochsner] was of remarkable precision to the musical direction...the music of the orchestra seemed to emanate from the film. There was no distinction between the screen and the stage." The *Ontario Arts Review* has said "Watch this man, he is brilliant."

Recordings include *Brian Wilbur Grundstrom: An Orchestral Journey* (CD), and *Tea: A Mirror of Soul* (DVD).

Ochsner attended The Pierre Monteux School and is a graduate of Dartmouth College. He speaks French, German and Italian. His mentors and teachers included Robert Spano, Charles Bruck, Erich Kunzel, Marin Alsop and Helmuth Rilling. He lives in New York City, loves travelling, wine and collecting requiem recordings.

www.erikochsner.com and www.SONOSChamberOrch.org

These materials were updated on April 7, 2023.

At the request of the artist, this may not be altered or edited.

Vancouver Symphony Orchestra	<i>Raiders of the Lost Ark</i> , Guest Conductor 2024 <i>Star Wars Episode 4: A New Hope</i> , Guest Conductor 2023 <i>Star Wars Episode 7: The Force Awakens</i> , Guest Conductor 2023 <i>Star Wars Episode 6: Return of the Jedi</i> , Guest Conductor 2022 <i>La La Land</i> : Live in Concert, Guest Conductor, 2018
Youngstown Symphony Orchestra	<i>Symphonic Titans</i> (Strauss, Mozart, Mahler), Guest Conductor 2023 <i>Ghostbusters</i> , Guest Conductor 2022
South Bend Symphony Orchestra	<i>Ghostbusters</i> , Guest Conductor 2022 <i>Dia de los Muertos</i> , Guest Conductor 2022
Alabama Symphony Orchestra	<i>Ghostbusters</i> , Guest Conductor 2019
Oregon Symphony	<i>Batman (1989)</i> , Guest Conductor 2019 <i>Star Trek Into Darkness</i> , Guest Conductor, 2016 <i>Star Trek (2009)</i> , Guest Conductor, 2015
Krakow FMF Youth Orchestra	<i>A Disney Celebration</i> . Music from 15 films, with vocal soloists (Performed in Polish), Guest Conductor, 2019
Evergreen Symphony (Taiwan)	<i>Pixar in Concert</i> , Guest Conductor, 2019 <i>Star Wars Episode 5: The Empire Strikes Back</i> , Guest Conductor 2019 <i>La La Land</i> : Live in Concert, Guest Conductor, 2017
Montreal Orchestre FILMharmonique	<i>Star Wars Episode 4: A New Hope</i> , Guest Conductor 2019 <i>Star Wars Episode 5: The Empire Strikes Back</i> , Guest Conductor 2022 <i>Star Wars Episode 6: Return of the Jedi</i> , Guest Conductor 2023
San Francisco Symphony	<i>Love Actually: Live in Concert</i> , Guest Conductor, 2018
Sydney Symphony Orchestra	<i>Mary Poppins: Live in Concert</i> , Guest Conductor, 2018, <i>World Premiere</i>
Louisiana Philharmonic Orchestra	<i>Star Wars Episode 4: A New Hope</i> , Guest Conductor, 2018
Saint Petersburg State Governor's Symphony Orchestra	<i>La La Land</i> : Live in Concert, Guest Conductor, 2018
Taipei Symphony Orchestra	<i>Beauty and the Beast</i> : Live in Concert, Guest Conductor, 2018
Beethoven Academy Orchestra (Krakow Film Music Festival)	<i>Beauty and the Beast</i> : Live in Concert, Guest Conductor, 2018, Live chorus and vocal soloists (Performed in Polish) <i>World Premiere</i> <i>Frozen</i> , Guest Conductor, 2016, Live chorus and soloists (Performed in Polish) <i>Pixar in Concert</i> , Guest Conductor, 2014
Seattle Symphony Orchestra	<i>La La Land</i> : Live in Concert, Guest Conductor, 2018
San Antonio Symphony	<i>La La Land</i> : Live in Concert, Guest Conductor, 2018
National Symphony Orchestra (Taipei)	<i>La La Land</i> : Live in Concert, Guest Conductor, 2018
W Philharmonic Orchestra (Seoul)	<i>La La Land</i> : Live in Concert, Guest Conductor, 2017
State Symphony Orchestra of Moscow	<i>La La Land</i> : Live in Concert, Guest Conductor, 2017, 2018

St. Petersburg Chamber Orchestra	<i>La La Land</i> : Live in Concert, Guest Conductor, 2017
Orchestre Métropolitain (Montreal)	<i>La La Land</i> : Live in Concert, Guest Conductor, 2017
Nashville Symphony Orchestra	<i>La La Land</i> : Live in Concert, Guest Conductor, 2017
Monterrey (Mexico) Orchestra	<i>La La Land</i> : Live in Concert, Guest Conductor, 2017
San Diego Symphony	<i>La La Land</i> : Live in Concert, Guest Conductor, 2017
Dallas Symphony Orchestra	<i>La La Land</i> : Live in Concert, Guest Conductor, 2017
Athens Festival Orchestra	<i>La La Land</i> : Live in Concert, Guest Conductor, 2017
Calgary Symphony Orchestra	<i>La La Land</i> : Live in Concert, Guest Conductor, 2017
Tokyo Philharmonic	<i>La La Land</i> : Live in Concert, Guest Conductor, 2017
Budapest Festival Orchestra	<i>La La Land</i> : Live in Concert, Guest Conductor, 2017
Stockholm Chamber Orchestra	<i>La La Land</i> : Live in Concert, Guest Conductor, 2017
Yogyakarta ASAL (Jakarta) Orchestra	<i>La La Land</i> : Live in Concert, Guest Conductor, 2017
Bulgarian Radio Symphony	<i>La La Land</i> : Live in Concert, Guest Conductor, 2017
Philharmonia Australia Orchestra	<i>La La Land</i> : Live in Concert, Guest Conductor, 2017
Hollywood Bowl Orchestra	<i>La La Land</i> : Live in Concert, Cover conductor, 2017
Opera America	<i>2017 New Works Showcase</i> , Music Director
National Arts Centre (Ottawa)	<i>The Music of Star Wars</i> , Guest Conductor, 2016 (new production) <i>Lord of the Rings: Fellowship of the Ring</i> Live to Projection, Guest Conductor, 2012
St. Louis Symphony	<i>E.T. The Extra-Terrestrial</i> Live in Concert, 2016 <i>Lord of the Rings: Fellowship of the Ring</i> Live to Projection, Guest Conductor, 2012
Dranoff International 2 Piano	Artistic Director, 2014-2016
Orquesta Sinfónica Nacional de México	<i>Back to the Future</i> Live in Concert, Guest Conductor, 2015
Richmond Symphony Orchestra	<i>Bugs Bunny at the Symphony</i> , Guest Conductor, 2015
Kitchener-Waterloo Symphony	<i>Star Trek (2009)</i> , Guest Conductor, 2015
Detroit Symphony Orchestra	<i>Bugs Bunny at the Symphony</i> , Guest Conductor, 2014
Indianapolis Symphony Orchestra	<i>Pixar in Concert</i> , Guest Conductor, 2014 <i>Pirates of the Caribbean: Curse of the Black Pearl</i> , Guest Conductor, 2012
Wolf Trap Orchestra	<i>Lord of the Rings: Fellowship of the Ring</i> Live to Projection, Guest Conductor, 2013
Round Top Music Festival Orchestra (Texas)	Faculty Concerto Concert, Guest Conductor, 2013 Assistant Conductor, 1996-1999. (Robert Spano, Marin Alsop, Christopher Hogwood)

Kaohsiung Symphony (Taiwan)	<i>Lord of the Rings: Fellowship of the Ring</i> Live to Projection, Guest conductor, 2012
Melbourne Symphony Orchestra	<i>Lord of the Rings: Fellowship of the Ring</i> Live to Projection, Guest conductor, 2012
Adelaide Symphony Orchestra	<i>Lord of the Rings: Fellowship of the Ring</i> Live to Projection, Guest conductor, 2012
Rochester Philharmonic Orchestra	<i>Pirates of the Caribbean: Curse of the Black Pearl</i> , Guest Conductor, 2012
Iceland Symphony Orchestra	<i>Lord of the Rings Symphony</i> , Guest Conductor, 2012
Shanghai Symphony Orchestra	<i>Lord of the Rings Symphony</i> , Guest Conductor, 2012
Tampere Philharmonic (Finland)	<i>Lord of the Rings: Fellowship of the Ring</i> Live to Projection, Guest conductor, 2011
Royal Stockholm Philharmonic	Composer Spotlight Festival: Tan Dun, Guest Conductor, 2007
Beijing Modern Music Festival	<i>Pierrot Lunaire</i> (Chinese premiere), Guest Conductor, 2007
New Mexico Symphony Orchestra	<i>Lord of the Rings Symphony</i> , Guest Conductor, 2006
West Saxony Sinfonieorchester	All-Gershwin and All-Mozart programs, Guest Conductor, 2006
SONOS Chamber Orchestra	Music Director, 2000-present
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La Mama Experimental Theater	Rehearsal Conductor, 2009
International Touring Cover Conductor	<i>Lord of the Rings</i> trilogy 2008-2010 (and rehearsal pianist) <u>Orchestras in:</u> Grand Rapids, Krakow, London, Luxembourg, Luzern, Lyon, Munich, Winnipeg, Wolf Trap <i>Lord of the Rings Symphony</i> , 2004-2009 <u>Orchestras in:</u> Athens, Buffalo, Chicago, Cincinnati, Detroit, Glasgow, Hanover, Houston, Kansas City, Köln, Louisville, Omaha, Oslo, Portland, Richmond, Salt Lake City, San Diego, San Francisco, Spokane
Composer/Conductor Tan Dun	Rehearsal Conductor, 2002-2008 <u>Projects in:</u> Amsterdam, Boston, Beijing, Denver, Leuven, Macau, New York City, Perth, Shanghai, Stockholm, Tanglewood, Tokyo, Wellington
Boston Symphony Orchestra	Assistant Conductor, 2003 (World premiere with Yo-Yo Ma)
Boston Pops	<i>Bugs Bunny at the Symphony</i> , 2017 – ON CALL conductor
Brooklyn Philharmonic Orchestra	Assistant Conductor, 1997-2001 Finnish Diction Coach, 1998
Apprentice Conductor	Savonlinna Opera Festival (Finland): <i>Salome</i> and <i>Don Giovanni</i> , 2001 Chicago Lyric Opera: <i>Ariadne auf Naxos</i> , 1998 Houston Grand Opera: <i>Eugene Onegin</i> , 2002; <i>Billy Budd</i> , 1998
Bayreuth International Youth Festival	Assistant Conductor: Orchestra program (1995), Opera program (1996)

Visiting Professor Huaqiao University (China): Chorus, diction, conducting, chamber music, 2016

Awards *Cultural Advocacy Award*, American Scandinavian Society, 2003

Films *The Show Goes On*, PBS television documentary, 2013
When the Curtain Falls, Columbia University Film School, 1998

Zoom Talks *Composers of African American and Latino Origin*, 2023
The Iconic John Williams, 2023
Trailblazing Composers who are Female, 2022
Music Composed for Young People, 2022
Erik's Favorite playlist, 2022
Music Composed for and influenced by Summer, 2022
Introduction to Opera, 2022
Introduction to Film Music, 2021
Introduction to the Instruments of the Orchestra, 2021
Introduction to the History of Classical Music, 2021

In Person Lectures *The Iconic Film music of John Williams*, Vancouver, 2022
Classical Music in Cartoons, 92Y, NYC, 2016 & 2017
Piano in Film Music, 92Y, NYC 2017
Sibelius' Kullervo, Columbia University, 1998
Wagner's Bayreuth, The Juilliard School, 1996

Languages Very good: French, German, Italian
Beginning: Finnish, Chinese, Russian, Japanese

Education Oregon Bach Festival, 2002. (Helmut Rilling)
Pierre Monteux School for Conductors, 1992-1996 (Charles Bruck)
Dartmouth College, A.B. 1994 (Efrain Guigui)

Selected Reviews

"Sensuality and synchronicity, matched by perfection, accompanied each of the melodies during *La La Land: Live in Concert*." *Bulgarian Monitor, December 8, 2017*

"White Hot Ovation: The performance drew magnificent applause." *Slaveikov Square, December 8, 2017*

"Little by little I was so drawn into the event, the combination of vision and music, that I forgot about who was playing what. I doubt that there is a bigger compliment I can give."

"[Ochsner] was of remarkable precision to the musical direction...the music of the orchestra seemed to emanate from the film. There was no distinction between the screen and the stage." *Radio Canada, July 3, 2017*

"The concert was shaped by musical excellence and by the successful realization of several discrete goals. Contemporary composers, represented by both short, occasional pieces and monumental works, were championed; young artists' careers were moved forward; neglected music was brought out for renewal." *TheaterScene.net, June 6, 2016*

"All the hallmarks of a great 'Rite' were here..." *New York Times, June 13, 2013*

"Under the direction of SONOS conductor and co-founder, Erik Eino Ochsner, the orchestra and chorus performed magnificently, responding warmly and comfortably to Ochsner's musical leadership as though they had been working with the score for years." *TheaterScene.net, June 25, 2012*

"Watch this man, he is brilliant!" *Ontario Arts Review, July 8, 2012*

"The more than 200 members of the 'fellowship' of the National Arts Centre Orchestra, directed by Erik Ochsner ... pulled out all the stops. They charmed and excited us during our magic carpet ride through Middle Earth." *The Epoch Times, July 9, 2012*

"...as a seasoned LOTR-conductor, Ochsner performed with firm confidence...it was a delight to note that the soloists, choirs and the orchestra performed Shore's score with precision under Ochsner's lead, without regressing to a mechanical copy of the original soundtrack." *AMFION.FI, April 30, 2011*

"The performance was conducted by Erik Ochsner, who appeared quite seasoned, perfectly syncing the live orchestra to the full movie...they didn't miss a beat." *STLMOVIES.NET, April 4, 2011*

"Conductor Erik Ochsner's energy and enthusiasm was obvious and contagious. I could tell from the very beginning that he was as excited to be there as was the crowd, and the orchestra responded with an incredible energy as well.... Did I say this was a great performance?" *gbrettmiller's posterous, April 2, 2011*

"Under the baton of guest conductor Erik Ochsner...the symphony sounded like the finely tuned instrument it has become over the years. Even the more rhythmically tricky and aggressively 'modern' parts of the score...sounded flawless." *KDHX, April 2, 2011*

"Erik Ochsner's rehearsal for *The Lord of the Rings Symphony* was most efficient, demanding, helpful and fun for all our singers. He is a remarkable leader under pressure!" *Amy Kaiser, Director, Saint Louis Symphony Chorus, September, 2008*

"American guest conductor Erik E. Ochsner took it easy at first. Then he led the Symphony musicians accurately and distinctly though the rhythmic cliffs and fast-changing mood of the music." *Im Spiegel der Presse (Leipzig, Germany), May 22, 2006*

References

- Jill Arbetter Executive Director,
Elmar Oliveira International Violin Competition.
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- Pam French Butler University and University of Indianapolis;
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- Tan Dun Composer, Conductor
Tel. 212.627.0410, Assistant, Kaitlin Collins
kaitlin@parnassusproductions.com
- Robert Spano Music Director, Atlanta Symphony Orchestra
Tel. 404.733.4873, Assistant, Carol Wyatt
- Bradley Ellingboe Professor of Music. Director of Choral Activities,
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Selected Internet Links

(Links will take you to highlighted webpages)

	Krakow Film Music Festival 2019: Disney in Concert: The Magic of Music
	Krakow Film Music Festival 2018: Disney in Concert: Beauty and the Beast (2017) <i>Beauty and the Beast (Live Action)</i> / Koncert Disneya: <i>Piękna i Bestia</i>
	A Lovely Night with the San Antonio Symphony playing the music of 'La La Land'
	Taipei: Disney in Concert: Beauty and the Beast (2017) <i>Beauty and the Beast (Live Action)</i>
	Krakow Film Music Festival 2016: Frozen (in Polish) in Krakow Poland for 10,000! Frozen / Koncert Disneya: <i>Kraina lodu</i>
	Krakow Film Music Festival 2014: Pixar in Concert on International Children's Day
	"From Bach to Spock. Oregon Symphony plays Star Trek" KGW NBC Portland
	Erik Ochsner on conducting Star Trek: "Goose Bumps and Tears are NOT OPTIONAL!" Schmopera.com interview
	Miami's unique music scene booming Op-Ed in Miami Herald
	Star Trek Live Brings Music to the Final Frontier Review of Toronto Star Trek Live to Projection
	A 4-Piano 'Rite' With Bang 'Rite of Spring,' With Clanging Pianos and Drums Review of SONOS concert at [le] poisson rouge
	Adelaide Radio Breakfast interview Radio interview discussing performance of Lord of the Rings: Fellowship of the Ring
	"Lord of the Rings" @ N.A.C Ontario Arts Review of Lord of the Rings: Fellowship of the Ring
	Concert review: The St. Louis Symphony's "Lord of the Rings" rules at Powell Hall Friday through Sunday April 1-3 Review of St. Louis Symphony: Lord of the Rings: Fellowship of the Ring
	Live orchestral music and film captivates at Clowes Review of Pirates of the Caribbean with the Indianapolis Symphony
	Review: 'Pirates' performance is golden Review of Pirates of the Caribbean with the Indianapolis Symphony



February 6, 2016

Letter of Recommendation for Erik Ochsner

From Robert Piaskowski, Artistic Director Krakow Film Music Festival

Great conductors are swept up in the music. They are passionate. They don't just play with their head; they also play with their heart. You can read it on their face. You can sense it in their movement. They are fully present and "playing full out." Erik was like that from the very beginning of *Frozen*! Both his performance of Pixar in Concert and *Frozen* were enjoyable experiences for me!

To Erik: Thank you for your professional approach and brilliant conducting!

Robert Piaskowski
poczta@biurofestiwalowe.pl



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<http://fmf.fm/en>

12 September 2011

RECOMMENDATION FOR MAESTRO ERIK E. OCHSNER



**Tampere
Philharmonic
Orchestra**

Hannu Lintu,
Artistic Director

Maritta Hirvonen,
General Manager

Tampere Philharmonic Orchestra had the great pleasure to work with Maestro Erik Ochsner for one week in May 2011.

The project was "Lord of the Rings: Fellowship of the Ring: Live to Projection," with Howard Shore's complete film score. It included an orchestra of 100 musicians, two vocal soloists, adult choir, children's choir and a very ambitious live film production. The marathon project included a couple of rehearsals and four concerts in the Big Auditorium of Tampere Hall, which seats 1,800; all concerts were totally sold out.

I have nothing but positive things to say about conductor Erik Ochsner. This kind of a project with 200+ performers demands a lot from everybody and I must say that Mr. Ochsner pulled through gloriously. I especially admired his endless patience and kindness, when he rehearsed the young soloists who did not have very much experience.

The chairman of Tampere Philharmonic Choir Mr. Aki Leppänen says following from his part:

"During my 23 years of choral singing, seldom have I seen such true musical professionalism combined with good nature, compassion and people handling skills. He is justly demanding and organized as well as humane at the same time. This is rare."

I warmly recommend Erik Ochsner as a really professional, talented and hard working conductor for the most demanding projects.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, likely belonging to Maritta Hirvonen.

Maritta Hirvonen
General Manager
Tampere Philharmonic Orchestra

November 16, 2012

Letter of Recommendation for conductor Erik Ochsner

As being one of Sweden's most published and performed composers of my time, I want to verify Mr. Erik Ochsner's true musicianship and artistry as a conductor and Music Director.

I had the privilege to collaborate with him in the process of having the U.S. premiere of my *Requiem for mixed Choir, Soloists and Orchestra* in New York City, June 2012. Erik is a great conductor in a both technical and musical sense. He has a clear and distinct feeling for music and is very good in communicating this with singers and musicians. I felt very comfortable with his interpretation in two ways: He always had his own visions and thoughts about my work but he was also very perceptive towards me as a composer and my music. I think this is invaluable when it comes to present a new piece of music in a trustworthy way.

I can therefore recommend Erik Ochsner for any kind of assignment as a conductor and Music Director.

Fredrik Sixten, composer