

FSO-SPECTRA

International Conducting Masterclass

Edition 2023

Flanders Symphony Orchestra (FSO) in partnership with SPECTRA (ensemble for new music) are inviting three young and ambitious conductors to participate in the third edition of the FSO-SPECTRA International Conducting Masterclass, this year focusing on *Symphony no. 1* of **Johannes Brahms** and on **new music**. We offer participants the rare opportunity to work with a professional orchestra and ensemble under the guidance of two experienced conductors. Together with Prof. conductor Christian Ehwald and SPECTRA's artistic leader Filip Rathé, the participants will explore the art of conducting, study the repertoire and share experiences with like-minded artists. This project takes place from **15 to 18 June 2023** in the world's oldest music centre, Muziekcentrum De Bijloke in Ghent.



FSO-SPECTRA Conducting Masterclass 2022 © Michiel Devijver

An enriching experience

"The International Conducting Masterclass was so much fun and gave me joy. I now have more courage and self-confidence, because this experience made me sure of what I was doing for the last ten years and what I'm going to do for the rest of my life." - Chanmin Chung

"Teaching young conductors is something very natural because that's how it has always worked in the education of music and arts in general. Older and more experienced people pass on their experience. That's just the most natural thing." Kristiina Poska

"It was incredible to work with an orchestra of this level. There was a very positive vibe. Every candidate was able to learn and grow a lot in a short period of time." - Pascale Van Os

Each participant will conduct both the orchestra as the ensemble during several sessions, resulting in a public concert moment. The focus lies on improving technical skills, communication and leadership, as well as on acquiring deeper knowledge of contemporary music repertoire and Brahms *1st Symphony*. The participants will also be getting feedback from members of the orchestra and the ensemble. With this project Flanders Symphony Orchestra and SPECTRA create opportunities to develop the participants' careers and to promote them on the international stage.



Aftermovie FSO Conducting Masterclass 2021

FSO, a safe harbour for talent

Flanders Symphony Orchestra is a laboratory for young people. It warms up their enthusiasm for art and music through the youth orchestra FSO Young and through a series of educational and social artistic projects. FSO also offers a warm and safe home to talented musicians, conductors and composers who are building promising careers, by organising the annual FSO-SPECTRA International Conducting Masterclass and the FSO International Composers' Academy.

Flanders Symphony Orchestra

[Flanders Symphony Orchestra](#) (FSO) is one of Belgium's leading orchestras. Composed of highly committed and passionate musicians, and led by renowned conductors, Flanders Symphony Orchestra devotes great attention to both young talent and talent development. Together with the young generation, we are building the future!

SPECTRA

[SPECTRA](#) is an ensemble, curious for new music, and has developed a remarkable musical coherence and a unique, refined sound starting from a fixed nucleus.

SPECTRA develops trajectories with composers living in Flanders, collaborates with composers, theatre makers, artists and writers and shares its expertise in the Advanced Master of Contemporary Music in collaboration with KASK & Conservatory Ghent.

SPECTRA premieres many commissioned works in a continuous dialogue with referential masterpieces and performs within and outside Europe.

Prof. Christian Ehwald

Christian Ehwald is an internationally renowned conductor. He has repeatedly conducted many of the world's most important orchestras, such as Berlin Philharmonic, Dresdner Staatskapelle, NHK Tokyo, Petersburg Philharmonic and many other large orchestras in Europe, Asia and America. He is one of the most successful conducting teachers and his students have won many of the most important conducting competitions, such as Besançon, Tokyo, Donatella Flick, Mahler and Solti.

Filip Rathé

Filip Rathé is a conductor, musicologist and composer. He teaches at KASK & Conservatory Ghent and has developed a broad experience in the field of contemporary music. In 1993 he founded SPECTRA and has created over 250 works. His compositions have been performed by Neue Vocalsolisten (D), Kremerata Baltica (LT) and Exaudi (UK), among others.

Practical information

Repertoire

Flanders Symphony Orchestra

J. Brahms (1833-1897)

Symphony nr. 1 - 1st movement

Symphony nr. 1 - 2nd and 3rd movement

Symphony nr. 1 - 4th movement

Spectra

F. Nuyts (°1957)

Five Penny beats & The seven beats itch (1993)

J.-L. Fafchamps (°1960)

Lettre Soufie: Sh(in) (2009)

A. Van Parys (°1975)

Fragrances (2008)

All three participants take part in all of the sessions and will draw to determine the repertoire for the final concert.

Schedule

15 June 2023	Arrival, Meet & Greet, FSO: Session 1 (with 2 pianos)
16 June 2023	FSO: Session 2 & 3 & 4
17 June 2023	SPECTRA: Sessions 1 & 2 & 3
18 June 2023	Rehearsal & concert (5pm) with both SPECTRA (morning) and FSO (afternoon)

All sessions will be held at Muziekcentrum De Bijloke Ghent.

Travel, accommodation

Participants arrange their own travels and accommodation. Meals will be provided by the orchestra. The participants don't pay any participation fees.

Recording

All participants will receive a personalised video recording of their masterclass sessions and concert performance.

Apply now!

We've got your interest? Great, let's get in touch! Apply **before April 14 2023**. The selected participants will be contacted the latest by April 25 2023.

Surf to www.symfonieorkest.be/conductingmasterclass or click to go directly to [the application form](#). Don't forget to upload your professional CV (1 A4), a motivation letter (½ A4) and a recent video recording(s) up to a maximum of 30 minutes including at least one performance of a piece of the main symphonic repertoire.

The FSO-SPECTRA International Conducting Masterclass is organised in collaboration with Muziekcentrum De Bijloke Ghent. The project is supported by the Flemish Community and the City of Ghent and is warmly supported by the Dirigentenforum des Deutschen Musikrates.

We look forward to hearing from you!