



CHARLOTTE SYMPHONY

CHRISTOPHER WARREN-GREEN
music director

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CHARLOTTE SYMPHONY NAMES RISING YOUNG CONDUCTOR ROGER KALIA AS NEW ASSISTANT CONDUCTOR



Roger Kalia conducting, by David Weiss

Roger Kalia, by Kelly Kruse

May 24, 2013 | CHARLOTTE, NC – The Charlotte Symphony and Music Director Christopher Warren-Green have named Roger Kalia as the Orchestra's new assistant conductor. Kalia will perform publicly with the Charlotte Symphony for the first time this fall and is scheduled to conduct a variety of concerts throughout the 2013-14 season.

"I am thrilled to appoint Roger as our next assistant conductor," said Warren-Green. "He brings considerable conducting experience and excellent musicianship to the podium, and along with his warm personality I know our audiences will immediately embrace this rising young talent."

Bringing what *The Republic* described as a "fresh view to classical music," Kalia conducted the first-ever world premiere and sold-out concert in the history of the Columbus Symphony Orchestra of Indiana, where he is serving his third and final season as its music director. In addition, Kalia just completed his first season as Music Director of the Young Musicians Foundation Debut Orchestra of Los Angeles, whose past directors include Michael Tilson-Thomas and Andre Previn.

Kalia is enthusiastic about his new role with an orchestra of the Charlotte Symphony's caliber. "This orchestra has a beautiful and warm sound that immediately struck me the first time I heard it. I cannot

wait to begin working with world-renowned Maestro Warren-Green as well as the phenomenal CSO musicians and dedicated staff," he said.

As assistant conductor at the Charlotte Symphony, Kalia will be primarily responsible for education concerts, the annual Nutcracker ballet with NC Dance Theatre, and the family-focused Lollipops Series. He will also assist Warren-Green in rehearsals by listening for balance and providing feedback, and will be available to step onto the podium in other instances as needed.

Although Kalia does not come from a musical family, he was inspired early on by his grandfather's Louis Armstrong records and began playing the trumpet at the age of eight. From there he split his affections between music and sports (he was a serious basketball player and remains an avid fan) until his sophomore year of high school when Kalia says "music started taking over my life."

Just two short years later, Kalia, a high school senior, earned the opportunity to perform with the National High School Wind Ensemble at Carnegie Hall: "It was life changing. From this point on, I decided that I wanted to pursue a career in music."

The conductor bug seriously bit him as an undergraduate in college, after he saw Zubin Mehta conduct Stravinsky's *Rite of Spring*. "I was completely glued to him during the entire performance," Kalia recalled of Mehta, "his different movements and gestures and his commitment to the music left me in awe."

Kalia recently completed his Doctoral work as an Associate Instructor of Orchestral Conducting at Indiana University. Prior to his work at Indiana University, he was the Schissler Conducting Fellow at the University of Houston, where he earned his Master's in orchestral conducting.

In addition to Kalia's music director positions in Indiana and L.A., he has worked with orchestras and ensembles across North America and Europe and earned numerous honors and prestigious conducting fellowships, including the Aspen Music Festival and the Cabrillo Festival of Contemporary Music. Most proud among Kalia's achievements was his second prize award in the inaugural Memphis Symphony International Conducting Competition in 2011, which led to his professional debut with the Memphis Symphony Orchestra.

Like Warren-Green, Kalia, who grew up in a suburb of Long Island, NY, will reside in Charlotte. He said that he is "...looking forward to making Charlotte home," adding, "It has a rich history and so much to offer in terms of art and culture, and I'm thrilled to represent the Charlotte Symphony as part of that cultural community."

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