

ADAM JAMES JOHNSON, DMA

ORCHESTRAL CONDUCTOR AND PIANIST

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AdamJohnsonConductor.com

EDUCATION

DOCTOR OF MUSICAL ARTS 2004-2009
Université de Montréal *Montréal, Qc*

Studied under Jean Saulnier and Marc Durand in Piano Performance
Degree obtained in French

DIPLOME D'ÉTUDES SUPÉRIEURES EN MUSIQUE NIVEAU II (MASTERS) 2006-2009
Conservatoire de Musique de Montréal *Montréal, Qc*

Prix du Conservatoire, specializing in Orchestral Conducting, under Maestro Raffi Armenian
Degree obtained in French

D.E.S.S. 2003-2004
Université de Montréal *Montréal, Qc*

Artist Diploma in piano performance under Marc Durand and Jean Saulnier
Degree obtained in French

MASTER OF MUSIC 2001-2003
Université de Montréal *Montréal, Qc*

Specializing in piano performance under Jean Saulnier
Degree obtained in French

BACHELOR OF MUSIC 1997-2001
University of Alberta *Edmonton, AB*

First-class honors with Distinction under Stéphane Lemelin and Jacques Despres

CONDUCTING WORKSHOP 2010
Canadian Conductor's Workshop *Ottawa, Ontario*

5 day intensive conducting workshop with Maestro Ken Kiesler and the National Arts Center

Orchestra, including 5 rehearsals with the National Arts Centre Orchestra

SUMMER STUDIES 2008, 2010
National Arts Center Conductor's Program Ottawa, Ontario

Apprentice in the 2 week intensive conducting workshop with Maestro Ken Kiesler and the Orchestre de la Francophonie Canadienne

SUMMER STUDIES 2009
The Pierre Monteux School for Conductors and Orchestra Musicians Hancock, Maine

Completed the six-week intensive conductor training under Maestro Micheal Jinbo

SUMMER STUDIES 2000-2003, 2005, 2007, 2008
Banff Center for the Arts Banff, AB

Piano masterclasses at the International Keyboard Festival with Julian Martin (Juilliard), Marc Durand (UdeMontreal), Robert Macdonald (Juilliard) and Kevin Fitzgerald (USC)

SUMMER STUDIES 1998-2000, 2002-2003
Orford Arts Center Orford, Qc

Piano masterclasses with Marc Durand, André Laplante, and Jean Saulnier

SUMMER STUDIES 2002
Morningside Music Bridge Calgary, AB

Piano masterclasses with Angela Cheng and Marc Durand

- I have attended or assisted the orchestra rehearsals of conductors Valery Gergiev, Sir Simon Rattle, Andris Nelsons, Christoph Eschenbach, Eiji Oue, Kent Nagano, Raffi Armenian, Neeme Jarvi, Charles Dutoit, Jean-François Rivest, Malcom Forsyth, Roberto Minczuk, Yannick Nezet-Seguín, Jean-Marie Zeitouni, Jean-Phillipe Tremblay, Christoph Konig, Kenneth Kiesler, Alistair Willis, Ivars Taurins, Michael Krajewski, Marcelo Lehninger, David Lockington, Gregory Vajda, Micheal Jinbo, Juanjo Mena, James Conlon, Micheal Francis, Juraj Valcuha, James Feddeck, Joshua Bell (Violin and conducting), Vasily Petrenko, Boris Brott, Carlo Rizzi, Klaus Peter Flor, Christop Gedschold, Conrad van Alphen, Edo de Waart, Raphael Payare, Alain Altinoglu, François-Xavier Roth, Paul McCreesh, Nikolai Znaider, David Robertson, Hervé Niquet, Bernard Labadie, Pablo Haras-Casado, Karina Canellakis, Sir Andrew Davis, and Michael Tilson Thomas.

AWARDS AND SCHOLARSHIPS

- *OPUS Award, Best Production of the Year – Youth Audience: Together, on the Beat!* (2019)
- *Canada Council for the Arts Jean-Marie Beaudet Award in Orchestral Conducting* (2015)
- *Alberta Arts Graduate Scholarship* winner (2008)
- *Alberta Foundation for the Arts* grant recipient (2006, 2007)
- *Fonds de les Amis de l'Art* scholarship winner (2006, 2007)
- *Bourse d'Excellence de L'Université de Montréal* scholarship (2006, 2007)
- *Fellowships for Full-time Studies in French* recipient (2002-2009)

EXPERIENCE AND ACHIEVEMENTS

CONDUCTING:

ORCHESTRAL:

- Return engagements with *Orchestre Symphonique de Montréal* in February and April 2020, as well as August 2020 and April 2021.
- Opera debut and return engagement with *Symphony Nova Scotia* in May 2020 after debut in April 2019.
- Return engagement with the *Orchestre Symphonique de Québec* in April 2020 after debut in March 2018.
- Return engagement with *Orchestre Symphonique de Trois Rivières* in December 2019 after debut in November 2018.
- Founded the Horatio Alger Orchestra, inaugural performance Oct. 2, 2019.
- Completed full term as Resident Conductor of the *Orchestre Symphonique de Montréal* in August 2019. July 2019 conducted 3 outdoor concerts for 35 000 people total. March 2019 assisted European tour to 9 cities, halls included Berliner Philharmonie, Vienna Konzerthaus, Paris Philharmonie. July 2018 conducted two outdoor concerts to crowds of 12 000 and 20 000 respectively. Conducted a sold-out benefit concert commemorating the 80 recordings made by the OSM in the 80's and 90's in St. Eustache. Assisted on tour in Krakow, Poland, and the opening concert of the 2018 Salzburg Festival in Penderecki's St. Luke Passion. Conducted *Pierrot Lunaire* with Patricia Kopatchinskaya and OSM musicians. Oct 2018 rehearsed and assisted creation of opera *Chaakapesh*, toured Northern Québec, and featured in film by Roger Frappier.
- Conducted 2 performances with the *Philharmonisches Staatsoper Hamburg* in the

Elbphilharmonie concert hall while assisting Kent Nagano in performances of Charles Ives's Symphony no. 4 in Oct. 2018. Also assisted for Beethoven's Violin Concerto with V. Mullova as soloist.

- Return engagement in August 2019 after conducting the inaugural performance of the *Symphonie de la Virée* as part of the OSM's *Virée Classique 2018*.

- Assistant Conductor of the *Orchestre Symphonique de Montréal* under Kent Nagano from September 2016 to June 2018, conducting 23 concerts in the 2016/2017 season, and 20 concerts in the 2017/2018 season. Prepared the orchestra in multiple rehearsals and was cover conductor for over 60 weeks, balancing sound for 92 international soloists, and 22 guest conductors up to May 1, 2018. Assisted 2 Decca recordings and several Medici.TV broadcasts. Conducted first rehearsal and sound check in Carnegie Hall, Oct. 2018.

- Return engagement as guest conductor with the *Calgary Philharmonic Orchestra* (Nov 2018)

- Main series debut with the Edmonton Symphony Orchestra in February 2018, in an all Dvorak program. Invited to conduct 3 separate programs in the 2017/2018 season, with yearly return engagements since December of 2015.

- Invited to conduct the McGill Symphony Orchestra in January, 2018.

- Main series debut with the *Orchestre Symphonique de Montréal* in October, 2017, conducting three performances of works by Barber, Estacio, Ravel, Tomasi, and Bernstein.

- Guest conductor with the *Calgary Philharmonic Orchestra* in Main Series concerts *Classical Vienna: Haydn, Mozart and Schubert* with Charles-Richard Hamelin, piano, and Christopher Sales, Bassoon, as soloists (April 2017), as well as *Carmina Burana* with Tyler Duncan, Mireille Asselin, and Timothy Shantz as soloists (April 2015).

- Promoted to Associate Conductor of the *Calgary Philharmonic Orchestra* for the 2015/2016 season, conducting 30 concerts (July 2015 - June 2016) after two seasons as Resident Conductor of the *Calgary Philharmonic Orchestra*, conducting 67 performances in the 2013-2014 and 2014-2015 seasons for more than 80 000 people (September 2013 – June 2015)

- Conducted 38 members of the *Calgary Philharmonic Orchestra* in 9 performances in the Saddledome, Calgary's largest stadium, to audiences numbering over 8000. (July 2015, July 2016, July 2017)

- Invited to be considered for Music Director of the Thunder Bay Symphony Orchestra in 2017 (obligated to decline invitation due to previous commitment to the OSM)

- 5 concert tour as Guest Conductor with the *Thunder Bay Symphony Orchestra* of western Ontario (February 2015)

- Guest Conductor with the *Saskatoon Symphony Orchestra* and finalist for Music Director search in only 2nd season of professional conducting (November 2014)

- Conducted the *Calgary Philharmonic Orchestra's* brass ensemble in a performance for Canada's Paralympic athletes in Canmore, AB (March 2013)
- Assistant conductor of *L'Orchestre Philharmonique des Musiciens de Montréal*, in residence at l'Université de Québec à Montréal (an orchestra training advanced students and young professionals to operate on a two rehearsals per concert professional model) (2012-2013)
- Conducted the National Arts Center Orchestra in 5 rehearsals (Nov. 2010)
- Conducted the Orchestre de la Francophonie Canadienne in 3 rehearsals as an Apprentice in the National Arts Centre Conductors Program for 10 days under Maestro Kenneth Keisler (2010).
- Conducted the orchestra of *The Pierre Monteux School* in 3 performances, 3 reading sessions, and 11 rehearsals (summer 2009).
- Conducted the orchestra of the *Conservatoire de Musique de Montréal* in performances at the Théâtre Maisonneuve at Places-des-Arts, Salle Pierre-Mercure, and Salle Jean-Eudes in Montreal, as well as leading the orchestra in multiple readings and rehearsals (2006-2009).
- Conducted the *Orchestre de la Francophonie Canadienne* twice as apprentice at the National Arts Centre Conductors Programme for 10 days under Maestro Kenneth Keisler (2008).
- Conducted members of the *Banff Festival Orchestra* with Donna Lee, a competitor in the International Chopin Competition in Warsaw, as soloist (2005), and in Saint-Saens' Carnaval des Animaux (2008).
- Assistant Conductor of the *University of Alberta Symphony Orchestra* (2000-2001)
- Conducted the *Edmonton Youth Orchestras* in rehearsal (2000-2001)
- Debut as orchestral conductor in 2001 leading a chamber orchestra in music by Gorecki

RECORDINGS:

- Conducted studio recording for major Hong Kong interactive public park project (Sept, 2019)
- Decca: Assisted Kent Nagano and recording engineer Carl Talbot for *The John Adams Album* with the Orchestre Symphonique de Montreal. Released by Decca Sept. 2019. Roles included musical assistant during rehearsals, active presence in recording booth during all recording sessions, noting where new takes were needed, presenting a comprehensive list to Nagano on which patch sessions were structured, and editing with Nagano and Talbot post-production.
- Analekta: Assisted Kent Nagano, Charles Richard-Hamelin, and recording engineer Carl Talbot for *Chopin: Concertos nos 1 & 2* with the Orchestre Symphonique de Montreal. Released by Analekta February 2019. Roles included musical assistant during rehearsals and patch sessions, active presence in recording booth during all recording sessions, noting where new takes were needed, presenting a comprehensive list to Nagano on which patch sessions

were structured, and editing with Nagano and Talbot during post-production.

- Decca: Assisted Kent Nagano and recording engineer Carl Talbot for *Leonard Bernstein: A Quiet Place* with the Orchestre Symphonique de Montreal. Released by Decca June 2018. Roles included musical assistant during rehearsals, active presence in recording booth during all recording sessions, noting where new takes were needed, presenting a comprehensive list to Nagano on which patch sessions were structured, and editing with Nagano and Talbot during post-production.

CHORAL PERFORMANCES AND REHEARSALS:

- Conducted the *Ensemble vocal Arts-Québec*, Canada's busiest professional choir for the funeral of the great Joseph Rouleau. Fellow performers included international stars such as Marie-Nicole Lemieux (Aug 23, 2019)

- Led multiple rehearsals with Québec's top children's choir, *Les Petits Chanteurs du Mont-Royal*, for multiple programs with the *Orchestre Symphonique de Montréal*, including Mahler Symphony no. 3, Orff Carmina Burana, Holst The Planets, etc. (2016 - 2019)

- Assistant to Kent Nagano and Andrew Megill for numerous programs and rehearsals with the professional chorus of the *Orchestre Symphonique de Montréal*. Repertoire included Bach St. Matthew Passion, B-minor Mass, Magnificat, Brahms Requiem, Verdi Requiem, Orff Carmina Burana, Mahler Symphony no. 3, Holst The Planets (2016-2019)

- Assisted Hervé Niquet in Mozart's Requiem (OSM Chorus, 2019)

- Conducted members of the *Opera de Montréal Atelier Lyrique* in excerpts of Handel's Messiah. Also assisted Paul McCreech in his complete rendition with the OSM (2018).

- Assisted Kent Nagano in rehearsals and performances of Penderecki's St. Luke Passion in Montréal with the OSM Chorus, and in Krakow, Poland and the Salzburg Festival with the *Warsaw Boy's Choir* (July 2018)

- Rehearsed the *Spiritus Chamber Choir* (professional choir, March 2016)

- Clinician for the Ecole Okotoks School choirs (April 2015, April 2016)

- Rehearsed the *Calgary Philharmonic Orchestra Chorus* for "Carmina Burana" (April 2015)

- Rehearsed *Cantare Children's Choir* (April 2015 and December 2013)

- Rehearsed the *Calgary Men's Chorus* and *Cum Vino Cantus* (December 2014)

- Rehearsed the *Calgary Philharmonic Orchestra Chorus* for Faure's "Requiem" (October 2014)

- Rehearsed the *Calgary Philharmonic Orchestra Chorus* for the world premiere of Abigail Richardson-Shulte's "Song of the Poets" (October 2014)
- Rehearsed the *Calgary Philharmonic Orchestra Chorus* for the world premiere of Stephen Chatman's "A Song of Joys" (April 2014)
- Rehearsed the *Calgary Philharmonic Orchestra Chorus* for Beethoven's Ninth Symphony (April 2014)

GUEST BAND REHEARSALS:

PIANO:

- Collaborative performance as pianist with the *Calgary Philharmonic Orchestra's* Trombone section in recital (April 2014)
- Mayor's invitation for solo recital and speech for Hinton's *Arts on Fire* event (February 2014)
- Organ continuo in Handel's *Messiah* with the *Calgary Philharmonic Orchestra* under renowned baroque specialist Ivars Taurins. Played lone accompaniment for an aria sung by Daniel Taylor. (3 performances Dec. 2013)
- Celeste, keyboard, and 2nd pianist for the *Calgary Philharmonic Orchestra's* Italian Festival, performing in performances of Respighi's *Pines of Rome*, *Fountains of Rome*, *Roman Festival*, and Italian Film music concerts. (Nov. 2013)
- Solo piano performances in Montreal, Edmonton, rural Alberta, and in the International Keyboard Festivals in Banff and Orford, and the Morningside Music Bridge in Calgary. Lecture recitals in Hinton, Alberta.
- Stage and rehearsal pianist for contemporary dance ensemble *Cas Public*, giving 70 performances in Canada, Japan and France (2009-2011).
- Return solo and collaborative piano engagements for the Association Culturelle d'Anjou (2008, 2010).
- Professional solo debut as pianist in the *Pro Musica* series at Place-des-Arts, Montreal (February 2008), resulting in other solo engagements in Montreal.
- Featured pianist of the 2005 Eckhardt-Gramatté Competition National Tour, collaborating with soprano Layla Claire (currently a preferred soprano of James Levine) in 21 concerts, including performances in Vancouver, Kelowna, Calgary, Banff, Lethbridge, Saskatoon, Winnipeg, Brandon, Thunder Bay, Toronto, London, Montreal, Halifax, Wolfville, Sackville, and Charlottetown. Ms. Claire is now a preferred soprano of James Levine, making her

Metropolitan Opera House debut in 2010.

- Accompanist/vocal coach at the Université de Montréal (2006-2009)
- Orchestral pianist for the University of Alberta Symphony Orchestra (2000)
- Participated in benefit concerts in Edmonton, raising \$5000 for charities such as Habitat for Humanity, and played solo benefit concerts in Hinton, raising more than \$4000 for local charity (1998-2000)
- In addition to the pianists named in the Education section, I have also received instruction from Martin Dubé (vocal accompaniment), Janet Scott Hoyt, Anton Kuerti, Michael McMahon (vocal accompaniment), Maneli Pirzadeh, and Jimmy Brière. I have attended Masterclasses of Sergei Babayan, Bruno Canino, Hung-Kuan Chen, M. Déchaussé, Ivry Gitlis (violin), Ilya Gringolts (violin), Gilbert Kalish, Géry Moutier, Menham Pressler, Vadim Repin (violin), Jean-Paul Sevilla, Dang Thai Son, Janos Starker (cello), Pierre-Laurent Aimard, Maxim Vengerov (violin), and Martha Argerich/Walter Delahunt.

TEACHING/CLINICIAN EXPERIENCE

- Numerous clinics given for High School level orchestras and bands during tenure in Montréal with the OSM (2016-2019)
- Clinician for two school programs in Guelph while guest conducting the Guelph Symphony Orchestra. (November 2019)
- Clinician for the *Ecole Pierre Laporte Wind Band* (May 2017)
- Rehearsed the *Alberta Winds* (May 2015 and May 2016)
- Return engagements as clinician for the Bishop Carroll Strings (April 2015, April 2016)
- Clinician for Arbour Lake High School band retreat (March 2016)
- Clinician for Notre Dame High School band (March 2015)
- Rehearsed the *University of Calgary Wind Ensemble* (February 2015)
- Workshop with the Notre Dame High School Senior Band (May 2015)
- Workshops with 29 Junior High bands as adjudicator of the Alberta International Band Festival (February 2015)
- Guest professor teaching conducting at the *University of Calgary* (March 2015, February

2016)

- Sessional instructor at the Université de Québec à Montréal (UQAM), teaching chamber music (January - May 2013)
- Guest lecturer in musical analysis at the Université de Québec à Montréal (UQAM) (Jan. 2013)
- Piano teacher at the McGill Conservatory (2010-13)
- Founder of *Adam Johnson, Dmus, and/et Assoc.*, offering prestige home lessons to more than a dozen families in Ville Mont-Royal (2012-13)
- 18 years of private teaching experience ranging from beginner to bachelor level, with 43 weekly students in total in 2012. Lessons now include conducting students. (1998-present)
- Piano teacher at the Academie de Musique de l'Ecole Pierre Laporte (2004-2012)
- Designed the Académie de Musique de L'École Pierre Laporte's piano technique syllabus (2011)
- Taught piano as a second instrument students at the Université de Montréal, Bachelor level (2005-2009)
- Teaching Assistant for Harmony at the Université de Montréal (2002-2007, 2010)
- Gave a piano masterclass at the University of Lethbridge (2005)

ADJUDICATING EXPERIENCE

- Adjudicated both the regional and provincial rounds (western Canada) for the Canadian Music Competition (April - May 2016)
- Adjudicated the Calgary Performing Arts Festival (young orchestras, April 2016)
- Adjudicated the Masterclass competition for the Honens Festival & Piano Competition (May 2015)
- Adjudicated 32 bands in the *Alberta International Band Festival* along with Ralph Ford and Dr. James Smart (February 2015)
- Adjudicator for the *Calgary Youth Orchestra's* Concerto Competition (February 2014)
- Adjudicator for the McGill Conservatory Piano Examinations (2009-2013)

OTHER MUSICAL EXPERIENCE

- Created arrangement of excerpt of Mussorgsky's *Night on Bald Mountain* for Abigail Richardson's *Alligator Pie*. The arrangement has been performed by the *Toronto Symphony Orchestra* and the *Calgary Philharmonic Orchestra*.
- Sang baritone with the *Calgary Philharmonic Orchestra Chorus* for performances of Brahms's *Shicksalslied* (Song of Destiny) Op. 54 under Christoph Konig
- Translated professor Luce Beaudet's 546 page analysis treatise and website *L'oeil qui entend, l'oreille qui voit* from French to English (2012)
- Member of the international award-winning choir The UofA Madrigal Singers (Bass/baritone) (1999-2000)
- Member of the UofA Concert Band (Tubist) (1997-1999)
- Drummer in the Harry Collinge High School Jazz Ensemble (1995-1997)
- Tubist in the Harry Collinge High School Concert Band (1996-1997)
- Trombonist in the Harry Collinge High School Concert Band (1993-1996)

SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS AND EXPERIENCE

- Public presentation on the functioning of an orchestra during the OSM's Virée Classique music festival (2017)
- Keynote speaker for the Alberta Registered Teacher's Association (May 2015)
- Guest speaker and pianist for *Music as a Second Language*, the pre-concert chat before Inon Barnatan's *Honens* solo piano recital, hosted by radio veteran Eric Friesen (May 2015)
- Keynote speaker for the *University of Calgary Chancellor's Scholars* at the invitation of U of C Chancellor/Astronaut Robert Thirsk (May 2015)
- Led 5 Leadership and Team Building events for various corporate management and staff (2013-2014, 2016)
- Spoken in front of approximately 200 000 people over 17 years of giving lecture recitals and illustrative orchestral concerts

MEDIA APPEARANCES

- 2016-2018: Live press release with André Sauvé for multiple media outlets, 3 radio, and 6 print interviews/promotions, in both French and English
- 2013-2016: 4 tv, 8 radio (4 in English, 4 French), and more than a dozen newspaper and magazine interviews.
- Viral videos of CPO concert encore cheering on the Calgary Flames NHL hockey team surpassed 600 000 views online and national tv coverage during the NHL playoffs. Video and story were carried on NHL.com, SportsIllustrated.com, TSN.ca, CBC.ca, CalgaryHerald.com, HuffingonPost.ca, CalgarySun.com, 660News.com, NewsAlberta.ca, Yahoo News, Reddit, and many more.

EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES AND TRAINING OF NOTE:

- Creator of *MaestroMethods.com*, teaching peak performance and personal development strategies through the model of conducting.
- Member of two-time league winning Ultimate Frisbee team (Calgary, 2014-2016)
- Graduate of Anthony Robbin's Mastery University, an intensive 12 day program on peak performance in the areas of personal psychology, health, and financial success (2009)
- Attended Brendon Burchard's Expert's Academy program, a 3 day workshop for authors, speakers, and coaches (2009)
- Multiple medalist during 5 years in downhill ski racing as a member of the Jasper Ski Team (1990-1995)
- Avid outdoorsman, backcountry skier and traveler, having visited 25 countries throughout Europe, Africa, and Asia
- Climbed Mt. Kilimanjaro in Tanzania (2005)