



**Jason Lai**  
**Conductor**

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Jason Lai is a leading light in a new generation of Asian conductors. He is the Principal Conductor of the Yong Siew Toh Conservatory Orchestra and also the Associate Conductor of the Singapore Symphony Orchestra.

Early success came when he won the BBC Young Conductors Workshop in 2002 and was awarded the post of Assistant Conductor to the BBC Philharmonic. His successful tenure with the orchestra gave him the opportunity to work closely with principal conductor Gianandrea Noseda, and to conduct other BBC orchestras and the BBC Singers in various concerts and recordings, which have been broadcast on Radio 3. He made his BBC Proms debut with the BBC Philharmonic in 2003.

Jason was also a prize winner at the Leeds Conducting Competition and has assisted or taken part in masterclasses with Pierre Boulez, Colin Davis, Valery Gergiev, Simon Rattle, Daniel Harding, Claus Peter Flor, Eiji Oue and Robert Spano.

This season he will make his debut with the New Japan Philharmonic and Bangkok Symphony Orchestra. He has also conducted the Singapore Symphony Orchestra, Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra, Halle Orchestra, London Symphony Orchestra, Norrköping Symphony Orchestra, Scottish Chamber Orchestra, Deutsche Kammerphilharmonie Bremen, Malaysian Philharmonic, Hong Kong Philharmonic and Hong Kong Sinfonietta. There have also been appearances with the Ulster Orchestra, Liverpool Mozart Orchestra, Bampton Classical Opera, Salomon Orchestra, Haydn Chamber Orchestra, Havant Symphony Orchestra, Paragon Ensemble, National Youth Orchestra of Great Britain, Singapore National Youth Orchestra, Orpheus Sinfonia, Evergreen Orchestra and Taipei Symphony Orchestra. Opera credits include *Manon* with English Touring Opera; *Tsarina's Shoes*, *Albert Herring*, *Beggar's Opera* and *Penelope* with Guildhall Opera; *Don Giovanni* and *L'infedeltà delusa* with Bampton Opera; and *Serse* with British Youth Opera.

In addition to his conducting, Jason is also a broadcaster and will be the presenter and conductor for *Project Symphony*, an eight part series for Okto channel in Singapore where he will be filmed setting up a community orchestra. For BBC he has appeared on the panel of the BBC Young Musician of the Year competition and was a judge for the BBC2 classical talent show *Classical Star*. He was one of the conducting mentors in the BBC2 series *Maestro* and won the competition with his celebrity student comedienne Sue Perkins. Other TV appearances include *Clash* for CBBC, *How a Choir Works* BBC4 and *The Culture Show* BBC2.

Born in the UK, Jason Lai began his musical studies at the age of eleven and was awarded a scholarship to Chetham's School of Music to study cello with Raphael Wallfisch and Gillian Thoday. A Hadow Scholarship enabled him to study cello and composition at Oxford University where he also toured extensively with the Allegri Quartet. After becoming a finalist in the BBC Young Composers Award, his piece *Synopsis* was performed by London Sinfonietta. He completed his studies at the Guildhall School of Music and Drama where he was awarded the Fellowship in Conducting.