

Tigran Arakelyan is an Armenian-American conductor, podcaster and radio host. He is the Music Director of **Northwest Mahler Festival**, **ORS of Tacoma** and Artistic Director of **Port Townsend Symphony**. Passionate about working with young musicians, he is the Music Director of **Federal Way Youth Symphony** and the **Bainbridge Island Youth Orchestras**. Previously, he was the assistant conductor of **California Philharmonic** and made his **Walt Disney Concert Hall** conducting debut in 2019. Tigran played alongside **Sir James Galway** during his induction into the Hollywood Bowl Hall of Fame with the **Hollywood Bowl Orchestra**. He received awards from **The American Prize** in Programming and the **Global Music Awards**.

He has programmed diverse concerts with works by William Grant Still, Amy Beach, Alma Mahler, Fanny Mendelssohn, Vasily Kalinnikov, Mieczysław Karłowicz and conducted regional premieres by renowned composers **Paul Hindemith**, **Keith Jarrett**, **Brenno Blauth** and **James Cohn**. Since 2009, Tigran has taken orchestras to unconventional venues, from bars and cideries to cafes and homeless shelters. During his tenure, both youth organizations grew to their highest enrollment and added multiple orchestras and ensembles. Bainbridge Island Youth Orchestra is one of the few youth orchestras in the US to continue in-person rehearsals (outdoor) and present virtual concerts. Federal Way Youth Symphony performed a concert which was rehearsed and recorded in-person and presented virtually.

Previously, he held assistant/associate conductor positions with the **California Philharmonic**, **Los Angeles Youth Orchestra**, Bellingham Symphony, CSU Northridge Youth Philharmonic and the Rainier Symphony. He has initiated and is a founder of the Port Townsend Chamber Orchestra, Bainbridge Island String Orchestra Festival, PTSO Young Artist Competition, Whidbey Competition for Young Composers and numerous scholarship/grant and funding initiatives. He was the founder and Music Director of the Cadence Chamber Orchestra (WA) and the Youth Orchestra at Lark Musical Society (CA). During his tenure, the Port Townsend Symphony saw unprecedented financial and audience growth.

Tigran led the Federal Way Youth Symphony on **three tours to South Korea** (2014, 2017, 2019), conducting in Seoul, Busan, Jeju, Daejeon, Gwangju, among other cities. During his time at the University of Washington, he was the conductor of the Campus Philharmonia and the Summer Orchestra. He held Music Director positions with the Whidbey Island Orchestra and the Bremerton Youth Symphony. Tigran has conducted the Fort Wayne Philharmonic, Olympia Chamber Orchestra, numerous youth orchestras in South Korea, Armenian Pops Orchestra, Juneau Symphony, Lark Orchestra (CA), Yakima Symphony Chamber Orchestra and innovative collaborations with the Olympic Performance Group and Olympic Youth Choir.

Tigran received the Ludovic Morlot Fellowship at the Pierre Monteux Festival, is a three time awardee of the Armenian General Benevolent Union **Performing Arts Fellowship** and is the 1st prize winner at the Armenian Allied Arts Competition. He participated in the Conductors Guild Workshop, Idyllwild Music Festival and Dilijan Chamber Music Series, among others. Tigran conducted in masterclasses with notable conductors David Loebel, Frank Battisti, Donald Thulean, Michael Jinbo and David Effron. He has worked with numerous composers and has premiered works by Iosif Andriasov, Eleanor Aversa, Michael Austin Miller, Yiğit Kolat and many others.

Invited by Maestro Ludovic Morlot, Tigran earned the **Doctor of Musical Arts** in conducting from the University of Washington where he was the first student in the inaugural class of Rahbee and Morlot. His mentors are Victor Vener, John Barcellona, Paul Taub, and Laura Osborn. In his youth he played in the Los Angeles Junior Philharmonic Orchestra and attended Lark Musical Society.

Tigran is the host and producer of a radio show on **KPTZ (91.9FM)** called Exploring Music, he shares an eclectic mix of music and interviews. An active podcaster since 2012, he most recently hosted and produced **Let's Talk Off The Podium** (140+ episodes). Tigran interviewed winners of Grammy Awards, the Pulitzer Prize, MacArthur Fellow, Rome Prize & the Polar Music Prize. Past guests include: Evelyn Glennie, George Walker, Mark O'Connor, Christian McBride, David Harrington (Kronos Quartet), JoAnn Falletta, Richard Stoltzman, Sharon Isbin, Vijay Iyer, Christopher Theofanidis, Yolanda Kondonassis, Roger Bobo, Diane Schuur, Øystein Baadsvik, Robert Aldridge and a long list of others.