

The Music between the Beats IV

Sigmund Thorp International Conducting Masterclass (4th Edition)

FROM BEATING TO BEING

Dates: Sunday, January 24 – Friday, January 29, 2027 (six days)

Venue: 3F, No. 135, Sec. 1, Heping E. Rd., Da'an Dist., Taipei City 106, Taiwan

Final Concert: Friday, January 29, 2027, 7:30 PM

World Sound Art Co., Ltd., New Taipei (10F, No. 2, Ln. 8, Chengtian Rd., Tucheng Dist., New Taipei City)

Partner Orchestra: Ark Symphony Orchestra (ASO)

Masterclass Philosophy

“THE MUSIC BETWEEN THE BEATS” is the guiding philosophy of this masterclass, which explores how a conductor can bring music to life through the flow between the beats.

In musical terminology, the word “beat” usually brings to mind a steady pulse, like a metronome.

Sometimes you can hear the “beats” in a piece as a steady, metronome-like rhythmic figure; at other times the beats are implicit in the music—even when the full orchestra sustains a single long note, the “beat” is still there.

But what is a “beat” from the conductor’s point of view? A conductor makes no sound on stage, so we cannot directly “hear” the conductor’s beat—yet every movement the conductor makes is closely bound to it. If we replace the word “beat” with “station,” the conductor’s movements are

like drawing a line between these stations, filling the space from one station to the next with a wide variety of gestures.

“FROM BEATING TO BEING” is the understanding Professor Thorp hopes to pass on to participants: beyond learning conducting technique and musical interpretation, the course focuses on what lies between the stations, developing the possibilities contained in the space between each one.

About the Maestro: Sigmund Thorp



Sigmund Thorp has taught at the Norwegian Academy of Music for nearly thirty years, training the conductors of the future. In addition to teaching the Classical and Romantic repertoire, he served as Artistic Director of the Norwegian Academy of Music Chamber Orchestra for more than 24 years, conducting over 350 works by contemporary composers, including numerous national and international premieres.

Professor Thorp has served as a visiting professor at National Taiwan Normal University (NTNU). In addition to training professional conductors, he led the NTNU Department of Music Orchestra in regular rehearsals and performances.

Artistic Leadership

- 1997 – 2000 Founder and Artistic Director, Oslo New Ensemble
- 1992 – 2016 Artistic Director, Norwegian Academy of Music Chamber Orchestra
- 2016 – present President of the Jury, Jeunesses Musicales International Conducting Competition, Bucharest

International Masterclasses

- Trinity College of Music, London (2001)
- Conservatorio Statale di Musica “ Giuseppe Tartini”, Trieste (2011, 2016)
- Academy of Performing Arts in Prague (HAMU) (2013)
- University of Music and Performing Arts Graz, Austria (2014)
- Jeunesses Musicales International Conducting Masterclass, Bucharest (2017, 2018, 2019, 2021)
- UPH Conservatory of Music, Jakarta (2018)
- Hochschule für Musik Hanns Eisler Berlin (2018)
- Seoul National University (2018)
- European Conducting Academy, Vicenza, Italy (2019)
- Shanghai Conservatory of Music (2019)
- Korea National University of Arts (2019)
- Sigmund Thorp International Conducting Masterclass, Taiwan (2019, Jan 2025, Jun 2025, Jan 2026)
- Taipei International Conducting Masterclass (Feb 2025)

More information: <https://www.sigmundthorp.com/>

About the Orchestra: Ark Symphony Orchestra (ASO)

Ark Symphony Orchestra (ASO)



Founded in 2016 by conductor Huang Li-Wei, who also serves as its Artistic Director, the Ark Symphony Orchestra brings together young musicians from Taiwan ' s leading music schools and professional music circles. Its seasons range from classical symphonic repertoire to crossover productions, and the orchestra has full production capabilities.

Throughout the masterclass, the Ark Symphony Orchestra will serve as the training orchestra, in full symphonic formation (complete strings, woodwinds, brass and percussion).

Course Content

1. Conducting Sessions (5 sessions): String Quintet + Piano

Taught personally by Professor Thorp. Active participants take turns on the podium individually, working on their chosen works and receiving direct coaching.

2. Orchestra Practicum (4 sessions): Full Symphony Orchestra

Taught personally by Professor Thorp. Active participants will work hands-on with the Ark Symphony Orchestra, rehearsing the masterclass repertoire under the maestro ' s direct guidance.

3. Lecture (Conducting Technique: Anatomy Exercise)

An exclusive lecture by Professor Thorp on his conducting technique and musical interpretation, attended by all participants (including auditors). Participants may ask questions and discuss the course material or any conducting-related topic.

4. Video Review

Participants review the footage of their own lessons together with the maestro, examining it section by section to consolidate what they have learned.

5. Final Concert

Each active participant will conduct one movement or section of the masterclass repertoire (assigned by the maestro) in performance with the full orchestra, and will receive a certificate of completion.

※ Each active participant will have approximately 140 minutes or more of podium time.

※ Orchestra members will vote to present one “ Orchestra ’ s Favorite ” award at this masterclass.

Repertoire

Schubert, Ouverture Rosamunde

Beethoven, Symphony No. 6

Mozart, Symphony No. 29

Brahms, Variations on a Theme by Haydn

(Note: Active participants must prepare the entire repertoire in full.)

Masterclass Schedule

	Sun 1/24	Mon 1/25	Tue 1/26	Wed 1/27	Thu 1/28	Fri 1/29
Morning 10:00 – 12:00			Lecture		Video Review	
Afternoon 14:00 – 17:00	Conducting Session (String Quintet + Piano)	Conducting Session (String Quintet + Piano)	Conducting Session (String Quintet + Piano)	Orchestra Practicum (Full Orchestra)	Orchestra Practicum (Full Orchestra)	Dress Rehearsal (Full Orchestra)
Evening 18:00 – 21:00	Conducting Session (String Quintet + Piano)	Conducting Session (String Quintet + Piano)		Orchestra Practicum (Full Orchestra)		Final Concert 19:30

Eligibility

1. Active Participants: Conducting experience required. Up to 12 participants will be selected by video audition.
2. Auditors: Open to anyone who wishes to learn about conducting. Auditors may observe the sessions in person and join in Q&A and discussion. Limited to 30 people.

Fees

- Audition application fee: NT\$2,000 (USD 70) (credited toward tuition upon acceptance)
 - Active participant tuition: NT\$22,000 (USD 770)
 - Auditors: NT\$3,600 (USD 120) for the full course; NT\$800 (USD 28) per day
- ※ Applicants not accepted as active participants may apply their audition fee toward the auditor fee.
- ※ All sessions and performances will be video-recorded; how the footage will be used is set out in the consent form included with the application.

Audition Procedure for Active Participants

Applicants must submit the following:

- Conducting CV: uploaded as a PDF file
- Conducting video: up to 12 minutes, clearly filmed with the camera facing the conductor from the front, with the repertoire and timings indicated. If several pieces are included, each must be at least 3 minutes long. YouTube links are preferred where possible.
- Consent statement for the use of interview text and images (completed in the application form)

⌘ Materials that are late, incomplete, false, forged or altered will be deemed invalid. If any false, forged or altered information is discovered after acceptance, the acceptance will be revoked.

⌘ Submitted materials will be used solely for audition review. Materials from unsuccessful applicants will be destroyed after the selection process.

⌘ If your files are too large to upload, please email them to the organizer (henry0911849@gmail.com), with each file name beginning with your name.

Application Process and Notes

1. Application Period

- Active participants: Now open until December 22, 2026 (23:59)
- Auditors: Now open until all places are filled

2. How to Apply

All applications must be submitted online via the registration form:

<https://forms.gle/evq9GH5n9GaaViUe8>

⌘ Audition results will be sent to applicants individually by email by December 27, 2026. Selected participants must pay the remaining tuition by January 4, 2027 (inclusive).

3. Contact Information

Phone: 0911-849-405 (+886 911 849 405), Mr. Chu

Email: henry0911849@gmail.com

Payment

Please pay by bank transfer to the account below, then enter the last 5 digits of your own account number in the application form.

Bank account: KGI Bank (bank code 809), account no. 60260400013215

Overseas participants who need to pay by international wire transfer (USD/EUR) should contact the organizer to confirm the payment method.

Course and Event Notes

- Participants must bring their own scores. Conducting from memory is encouraged.
- All sessions are taught in English; participants must be able to understand instruction in English.
- Course content will be arranged according to the active participants' wishes as far as possible.
The maestro will adapt the content and coaching to the participants on site—please let us know if there are particular areas you would like to work on.
- The organizer reserves the right to change the repertoire, dates and venue of this event.
- The organizer reserves the right to select participants.
- Overseas participants are responsible for obtaining their own visas to Taiwan and arranging their own accommodation, meals and transportation. If you need assistance with accommodation during the course, please contact the organizer and we will do our best to help.