

The 2026 Los Angeles Conducting Workshop & Competition (LACWC) August 3-8, 2026

Unlock your full potential and rise to the top at the 2026 Los Angeles Conducting
Workshop & Competition

A bold, reimagined experience blending innovative training with an exciting new competition
format. Step into a transformative journey designed to inspire, challenge,
and elevate your artistry on the podium.

Learn from one of the best-conducting tutors
Maestro Neil Thomson, British conductor • Dr. Scott Weiss, American conductor
Both are internationally acclaimed conductors and distinguished professors of music

WORKSHOP REPERTOIRE

Semi-Finals/Finals Repertoire

Mendelssohn - Symphony No. 3 (Scottish), mvt. 1 (*omitting repeat*)

Brahms - Symphony No. 2 mvt. I (*omitting repeat*)

Beethoven - Symphony No. 8, mvt. I

Dvorak - Symphony No. 8, mvt. I

Schubert - Symphony No. 8 (**Unfinished**) mvt. I, (*Breitkopf edition is no. 7*)

Schumann - Symphony No. 1, mvt. I

Monday-Wednesday, String Quintet and Piano, Teaching Days

Thursday-Friday, Full Orchestra, Teaching Days

Saturday Morning, Full Orchestra, Semi-Finals (Professionally video recorded)

Excerpts will be determined by the faculty

Repertoire will be determined by a random draw

Orchestra votes and advances 6 finalists

(Repertoire assigned by random draw at the conclusion of the semi-finals)

Saturday Evening, Full Orchestra, Finals and Concert

PRIZES

- Orchestra Prize - voted by the orchestra
- Faculty Prize - voted on by the teachers
- Audience Prize - voted by the audience
- Participant Prize - voted on by the 14 conductors who are not finalists
(finalists should not participate in this vote)

COMPETITION RULES

1. Open to all conductors of any nationality and without age limit.
2. All participants must attend all conducting sessions.
3. Only six conductors will advance to the Finals (Saturday), **chosen exclusively by orchestra members**. Only if there is a tie will Maestro Neil Thomson and Dr. Scott Weiss cast their votes.

Results are final and cannot be contested.

VENUE

Glendale Community College, Auditorium
1500 North Verdugo Road, Glendale
California 91208

TUITION FEE: \$2,750.

AUDITOR FEE: \$750. (No podium time)

APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS

1. Priority will be given to early applicants
2. Apply <https://www.laconductingworkshop.org> on or before June 15, 2026
3. Submit resumé/CV and two conducting video links to **admin@laconductingworkshop.org**
4. The deadline for the application is June 15, 2026
5. Pay the application fee of \$75. upon submission of the application
6. Pay the full tuition of \$2,750 upon acceptance. (Only 20 applicants will be accepted.)
No refund is applicable upon receiving the final tuition payment.

METHOD OF PAYMENT

PayPal

Account or Business Name: MUSIKATO INTERNATIONAL

(Transaction fee is not included in the Application or Tuition Fees) Wire Transfer

BANK NAME/NUMBER: JPMORGAN CHASE BANK, N.A. (703) BANK ACCOUNT NUMBER: 838936701

ABA ROUTING NUMBER: 021000021

(International) SWIFT CODE: CHASUS 33

AIRPORT

The USA's entry point is the Los Angeles International Airport (LAX).

PRIZES

Orchestra Prize - Featured Conductor, 2027 LA CONDUCTING WORKSHOP & COMPETITION CONCERT

- \$1,000 Cash Prize
- Award Certificate
- Note: *Hotel accommodations and airfare are not included in the prize*

Faculty Prize – \$500. Cash Prize, Award Certificate

Audience Prize - Award Certificate

Participant Prize - Award Certificate

For more information, please visit www.laconductingworkshop.org

CONDUCTING TUTORS

Maestro Neil Thomson served as Head of Conducting at the Royal College of Music. The youngest-ever incumbent of this post and an Honorary Member of the RCM in 1994 for his services to the institution, and has established an enviable reputation as an orchestral conductor.

He has served as Principal Conductor and Artistic Director of the Goiás Philharmonic Orchestra in Brazil. The orchestra has rapidly developed a reputation for its dynamic performances and wide-ranging repertoire (with a special emphasis on Brazilian and contemporary music). His recordings with the OFG for the Naxos Brasil em Concerto series of music by Claudio Santoro, Cesar Guerra-Peixe, and Edino Krieger have met with great critical acclaim from around the world.

In the UK, he has conducted the London Symphony Orchestra, the London Philharmonic Orchestra, the Philharmonia, the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra, the Royal Liverpool Philharmonic, the Royal Scottish National Orchestra, the Hallé, the BBC

Symphony Orchestra, the Ulster Orchestra, and the Orchestra of Welsh National Opera. Recent débuts include concerts with the Yomiuri Nippon Symphony Orchestra, Tokyo Philharmonic, Century Orchestra Osaka, Kansai Philharmonic, Concert Orchestra, Lahti Sinfonia, Romanian National Orchestra, Britten Sinfonia, Ulster Orchestra, RTE Concert Orchestra, Orchestra of Gothenburg Opera, Aarhus Symphony Orchestra, Orchestra of Opera North, São Paulo Symphony Orchestra, Brazilian Symphony Orchestra, Minas Gerais Philharmonic Orchestra, and Buenos Aires Philharmonic Orchestra.

His skills as a natural communicator have enhanced an already growing reputation as a professor throughout Europe. He has been a Guest Professor at the Mozarteum in Salzburg, the Krakow Academy of Music, the Conservatoire "Arrigo Boito" in Parma, the Lithuanian Academy of Music, Campos do Jordão Festival, and the Los Angeles Conducting Workshop.

He studied violin and viola at the Royal Academy of Music and conducting with Norman Del Mar at the Royal College of Music. In addition, he was a member of the conducting class at Tanglewood Summer School in 1989, where his teachers included Gustav Meier, Seiji Ozawa, Kurt Sanderling, and Leonard Bernstein.

Scott Weiss is the Music Director and Conductor of the Aiken Symphony Orchestra, the Conductor of the South Carolina Ballet Orchestra, and the Director of Orchestras at the University of South Carolina School of Music. In demand internationally as a guest conductor, Scott has conducted recent performances with the orchestras of Shenzhen, Tianjin, Hunan, Inner Mongolia, Shandong, and Nanchang and at major international venues, including the Taipei National Theatre and Concert Hall, the National Centre for the Performing Arts Concert Hall in Beijing, and the Hangzhou Grand Theatre Concert Hall. Soloists he has recently shared the stage with include Elena Urioste, Angelo Xiang Yu, Zuill Bailey, John O'Connor, Marina Lomazov, and Paul Jacobs.

At the University of South Carolina, Dr. Weiss is the Sarah Bolick Smith Distinguished Professor of Music. In addition to conducting the USC Symphony Orchestra, Professor Weiss leads the master's and doctoral programs in orchestral conducting at UofSC. His studio is a destination for talented young conductors from around the world. He is frequently invited to conduct performances and teach masterclasses at leading conservatoires and music schools, including the Sydney Conservatorium of Music, the Central Conservatory of Music (Beijing), the Shanghai Conservatory of Music, and the University of Western Australia. Each summer, he teaches at the Los Angeles Conducting Workshop and Competition.