Samuel Lee
Conductor

Samuel Lee is the Associate Conductor of the Cincinnati Symphony Orchestra, and the winner of the prestigious Malko Competition for Young Conductors 2024 in Copenhagen.

As a result of his success at the Malko Competition, Lee will have conducting contracts with 24 leading international symphony orchestras and a three-year period with the Danish National Symphony Orchestra’s chief conductor Fabio Luisi as a personal mentor. Previously, he was awarded first prize winner of the BMI International Conducting Competition in Bucharest and the International Conducting Competition in Taipei.

Amongst the orchestras Lee has conducted are Konzerthausorchester Berlin, Bamberger Symphoniker, Hamburger Camerata at the Elbphilharmonie Hamburg and the Leipziger Symphonieorchester at the Gewandhaus, Symphoniker Hamburg, Stuttgarter Philharmoniker, Nuremberg Symphony Orchestra, Frankfurt State Orchestra, Brandenburg Symphony Orchestra, Tokyo Philharmonic Orchestra, Bucharest Symphony Orchestra, Arad Philharmonic Orchestra, Seoul Philharmonic Orchestra, Korean National Symphony Orchestra, KBS Symphony Orchestra and the SAC Festival Orchestra.

Lee has assisted Cristian Măcelaru in concerts with the WDR Sinfonieorchester Köln, Munich and Salzburg, as well as Vladimir Jurowski for his concerts with the London Philharmonic Orchestra. He has been a conducting fellow and participant in masterclasses of conductors such as Daniele Gatti, Riccardo Muti, Neeme Järvi and Markus Stenz.

In 2019, Lee was invited to conduct the Orchestra Giovanile di Siena as part of an audition for the Chigiana International Music Festival in Siena. He was also invited to the Riccardo Muti Italian Opera Academy in Tokyo, organized by the Tokyo Spring Festival, where he conducted Verdi’s *Rigoletto*.

An avid promoter of contemporary music, Lee has conducted several premieres of orchestral and ballet works including pieces by Bryce Dessner, Giuseppe Gallo-Balma and Marc Migó. He was also a conducting fellow with the Cabrillo Festival of Contemporary Music in 2021 and 2022, where he worked with conductors Cristian Măcelaru, Yannick Nézet-Séguin, Octavio Más-Arocas and Marin Alsop.

Lee is an alumnus of Hochschule für Musik ‘Hanns Eisler’ Berlin, where he studied viola with Prof. Tabea Zimmermann (BM, MM, Konzertexamen) and orchestral conducting with Prof. Christian Ehwald (BM, MM). Lee completed Konzertexamen in orchestral conducting at Hochschule für Musik und Theater Hamburg with Prof. Ulrich Windfuhr.

As a violist, Lee has performed with several orchestras worldwide and was invited to perform with the Baden-Baden Philharmonic, Münchener Kammerorchester, Southern German Philharmonic, Zabrze Philharmonic, Seoul Philharmonic Orchestra, KBS Symphony and Korean National Symphony orchestras, and at the Schleswig-Holstein Music Festival and Mecklenburg-Vorpommern Music Festival.

He also served as a viola professor at Hochschule für Musik und Theater ‘Felix Mendelssohn-Bartholdy’ in Leipzig, Germany until 2022.

From 2009 until 2017, Lee was the violist of the Novus String Quartet, which, performed in and was invited to, renowned venues such as the Berliner Philharmonie, New York’s Carnegie Hall, Vienna’s Musikverein, Kölner Philharmonie and Tokyo’s Suntory Hall. He also was the second prize winner of the 61st International Music Competition of ARD Munich, and first prize winner of the Salzburg International Mozart Competition.