



2018 Solti U.S. Career Assistance Award Recipients
(in alphabetical order)

Daniel Black

Roger Kalia

Stilian Kirov

Farkhad Khudyev

Stephen Mulligan

Sameer Patel

Stefano Sarzani

Lidiya Yankovskaya

Complete Biographies, photos and artist website links below.



Daniel Black, conductor, 2018 Solti U.S. Career Assistance Award Recipient



“Firm, decisive,” “vital and engaging” and “with a droll sense of humor on the podium,” Canada-based American conductor Daniel Black has begun to attract attention as a conductor who “makes music in a way that is meaningful to audiences in the 21st Century.”

Daniel will join the Florida Orchestra as Assistant Conductor in Fall 2018, and also makes his debut with the Texarkana Symphony Orchestra in 2019.

In the 2017-18 season, Daniel made his debut as guest conductor with the San Antonio Symphony Orchestra and the Dnipro State Opera and Ballet Company (in Dnipro, Ukraine) in a production of Verdi’s *Rigoletto*. He debuted

with Michigan Opera Theatre, serving as assistant conductor for productions of *Rigoletto* and *Le Nozze di Figaro*. He also served as assistant conductor with the Florentine Opera Company’s production of *Die Zauberflöte* with a second consecutive Solti Foundation U.S. opera residency; and continued as Director of Instrumental Music at the Wildwood Arts and Music Academy in Little Rock.

Daniel’s previous guest-conducting engagements have included the St. Petersburg (Russia) State Academic Symphony Orchestra, the Dallas Basically Beethoven Festival, the Owensboro Symphony, the Wisconsin Chamber Orchestra, the Wichita Falls Symphony, the Rockford Symphony, the Champaign-Urbana Symphony, and the South Shore Opera Company. As Music Director of the Oshkosh Symphony Orchestra, he created the first professional recording of John Harmon’s *Crazy Horse* symphony, and presented the Midwest Premiere of the work, a performance which was hailed as “one of the most momentous evenings in the [130-year] history of the Grand Opera House.”

Daniel received the 2017 Solti Foundation U.S. Opera Residency working with conductor Stephen Lord and Opera Theatre of St. Louis. He has also toured China as assistant conductor of the Chinese premiere of composer/conductor Bright Sheng’s opera *Dream of the Red Chamber*. As Associate Conductor of the Fort Worth Symphony Orchestra from 2014-17, Daniel conducted over 150 performances, including stepping in at a moment’s notice for his Subscription debut in place of Miguel Harth-Bedoya. Daniel was the recipient of consecutive Solti Foundation U.S. Career Assistance Awards in 2015 and 2016. He has been engaged as cover conductor by the Cincinnati Symphony Orchestra, the Dallas Symphony Orchestra and the St. Louis Symphony Orchestra.

A conducting fellow at the Aspen Music Festival and the Cabrillo Festival of Contemporary Music, Daniel has studied with Kurt Masur, Edo de Waart, Robert Spano, Hugh Wolff, Larry Rachleff, Marin Alsop, Daniel Lewis, David Effron, and Gunther Schuller.

Also an accomplished composer, Daniel was the composer-in-residence for the International Horn Society’s 2014 Southeast Horn Workshop, and was a finalist and diploma winner of the International Prokofiev Composition Contest in April 2008.

Fluent in Russian, Daniel has studied conducting at the St. Petersburg Conservatory, Eastman School of Music, and Northwestern University, counting among his mentors Leonid Korchmar, Neil Varon and Victor Yampolsky. He has studied composition with Richard Danielpour. Daniel lives in Kitchener, Ontario with his wife, hornist Marie-Sonja Cotineau, and their cat Zelda.

Biography provided and approved by artist.

<http://danielblackconductor.com/>



Roger Kalia, conductor, 2018 Solti U.S. Career Assistance Award Recipient



Hailed as a conductor who leads with "passionate intensity" and recognized as "one to watch," Roger Kalia is one of America's most exciting young conductors. A three-time recipient (2018, 2017, 2013) of The Solti Foundation U.S. Career Assistance Award, Kalia is currently in his third season as the Assistant Conductor of Pacific Symphony and Music Director of the Pacific Symphony Youth Orchestra. Kalia also serves as Co-Founder and Music Director of the Lake George Music Festival in upstate New York, which was recently featured in the League of American Orchestras's *Symphony Magazine* as one of the premier summer classical music festivals in the country.

In the 2017-2018 season, Kalia makes his European subscription debut with the Szczecin Philharmonic in Poland, leads the Camarada Chamber Orchestra of San Diego, returns to conduct the Bakersfield Symphony on their annual Gala concert, and collaborates with the Orange County Music and Dance School in a benefit concert featuring rock stars Johnny Rzeznik (Goo Goo Dolls) and Nancy Wilson (Heart). Upcoming engagements for the 2018-2019 season include debuts with the Wheeling Symphony and Symphony New Hampshire, conducting the Lake George Music Festival Symphony Orchestra in premieres by Paul Dooley, Steven Snowden and Chris Rogerson, and collaborating with PROJECT Trio at the Lake George Music Festival. Additional recent guest conducting engagements include the National Symphony at the Kennedy Center, Chicago Sinfonietta at Symphony Hall, Long Beach Symphony, Great Falls Symphony, Owensboro Symphony, Boise Philharmonic, and Adrian Symphony.

Kalia has served as cover conductor for the Los Angeles Philharmonic, San Diego Symphony, St. Louis Symphony, Kansas City Symphony and Indianapolis Symphony. He has also worked in various capacities with the New York Philharmonic, Pittsburgh Symphony, Seattle Symphony, Utah Symphony, Fort Worth Symphony, Danish National Symphony, Winnipeg Symphony and Royal Scottish National Orchestra. Kalia conducted the Memphis Symphony in 2011 after winning Second Prize in their International Conducting Competition, which led to his debut the following season and launched his professional career. Prior to joining Pacific Symphony, Kalia held conducting positions with the Charlotte Symphony, the Young Musicians Foundation (YMF) Debut Orchestra and the Columbus (IN) Symphony Orchestra.

Described as the region's 21st century "cultural renaissance" (*Art in the Adirondacks*) and as a festival that "has a limitless horizon" (*Glens Falls Chronicle*), Kalia serves as Co-Founder and Music Director of the Lake George Music Festival, whose distinguished musicians come from many of North America's finest orchestras and conservatories. Last summer, the *Glens Falls Chronicle* hailed Kalia's concert with the Festival Orchestra in Beethoven's Seventh Symphony as the "concert of the summer." In 2016, Kalia created a groundbreaking series called *Sounds of Our Time*, which highlights the connections between the popular music of our time and orchestral music through an innovative concert format featuring visuals, audience engagement, and multimedia. This series has gained national publicity by being featured in the League of American Orchestras *The Hub*, *Broadway World*, *EDMjoy*, the *Albany Times Union*, and *Saratoga Living*. Kalia has held fellowships with the Chicago Sinfonietta as part of their Project Inclusion program, the American Academy of Conducting at the Aspen Music Festival with Robert Spano, the Conductors Guild Conductor/Composer Training Workshop at the Cabrillo Festival of Contemporary Music with Marin Alsop, the David Zinman International Conducting Masterclass with the Tonhalle Orchestra Zurich, and the Kurt Masur Conducting Seminar at the Manhattan School of Music. Passionate about teaching the next generation

of musicians, Kalia maintains a regular teaching relationship with the Colburn School and Cal State Fullerton, and he recently conducted the Missouri All-State Symphony Orchestra.

Kalia holds degrees from Indiana University, the University of Houston and SUNY Potsdam's Crane School of Music. At Indiana University, Kalia served as an Associate Instructor and Assistant Conductor of the IU Opera Theater and New Music Ensemble. His primary mentors include David Efron, Arthur Fagen, and Franz Anton Krager.

Born and raised in New York, Kalia resides in Southern California with his wife, musicologist/violinist Christine Wisch, and their dog Burney.

Biography provided and approved by artist.

<http://rogerkalia.com>



Stilian Kirov, conductor, 2018 Solti U.S. Career Assistance Award Recipient



First Prize Winner of the 2017 "Debut Berlin" Competition, Stilian Kirov made his debut at the historic Berlin Philharmonic Hall in June 2017. He returns to the U.S. to as the newly-appointed Music Director of the Illinois Philharmonic in Chicago's Southland. He will continue his music directorships with the Bakersfield Symphony in California and New Jersey's Symphony in C. A 2017 and 2016 recipient of the Solti Foundation U.S. Career Assistance Award, Mr. Kirov has proven to be not only a dynamic artistic director, but also an enthusiastic educator and community leader, continuing to build upon his previous successes as Associate Conductor of the

Seattle Symphony and Associate Conductor of the Memphis Symphony.

Upcoming engagements include concerts with the Minas Gerias Philharmonic/Brazil, Omaha Symphony and the Sofia Philharmonic, among others. Worldwide, Stilian Kirov has also appeared with Orchestre Colonne/Paris, Leopold Chamber Orchestra/Ukraine, Orchestra of Colors/Athens, State Hermitage Orchestra/St. Petersburg, Thüringen Philharmonic Orchestra, the Zagreb Philharmonic, the Musical Olympus International Festival in St. Petersburg and at Carnegie Hall in NYC, as well as the Victoria Symphony/British Columbia, among others. Highlights of Mr. Kirov's guest performances also include appearances with the symphonies of West Virginia, Venice, Kalamazoo, South Bend, the National Repertory Orchestra/Breckenridge, and the Tucson Symphony among others. Following his highly acclaimed debut in 2012, he has also appeared regularly as guest conductor with the Pacific Northwest Ballet in Seattle.

During the 2013/2014 season, Stilian Kirov was engaged as an assistant conductor to Bernard Haitink with the Chicago Symphony Orchestra as well as a cover conductor for Stéphane Denève, the late Rafael Frühbeck de Burgos, Christoph von Dohnányi, and Andrew Davis, all with the Boston Symphony Orchestra. Also during that season, he stepped in to replace Rafael Frühbeck de Burgos with the Seattle Symphony, conducting "spectacular" performances of Orff's *Carmina Burana*.

A prize winner at Denmark's 2015 Malko Competition, Stilian Kirov is the recipient of numerous awards and prizes, including an Emmy for the Memphis Symphony's Soundtrack Project, the Orchestra Preference Award, and Third Prize at the 2010 Mitropoulos Conducting Competition, as well as Juilliard's Bruno Walter Memorial Scholarship and the Charles Schiff Conducting Award for outstanding achievement. He is also the recipient of France's 2010 ADAMI Conducting Prize, culminating in a showcase concert at the Salle Gaveau with the Orchestre Colonne. Following the performance, Mr. Kirov was invited to conduct the orchestra's opening concerts of the 2011/2012 season in Paris.

Mr. Kirov is a graduate of The Juilliard School in orchestral conducting, where he was a student of James DePreist. In 2012, he studied at the Aspen Academy of Conducting, and in 2013, was one of three Conducting Fellows at the Tanglewood Music Center. In 2010, he was awarded the Chautauqua Music Festival's David Efron Conducting Fellowship and returned in 2012 as a guest conductor with the festival orchestra. Mr. Kirov holds a master's degree in conducting from the Ecole Normale de Musique in Paris, where he studied with Dominique Rouits. He has participated in master classes with such distinguished conductors as the late Kurt Masur, Michael Tilson Thomas, Gianluigi Gelmetti, George Manahan, and Asher Fisch. Also a gifted pianist, Stilian Kirov was Gold Medalist of the 2001 Claude Kahn International Piano Competition in Paris.

Biography provided and approved by artist.



Farkhad Khudiyev, conductor, 2018 Solti U.S. Career Assistance Award Recipient



Described by the critics as a “magician on the podium” and “the man of exceptional charisma” (*Performing Arts Monterey Bay*), with “the ability to connect with invisible worlds and to bring them alive in the music” (*Herald*), Farkhad Khudiyev, has been recognized by the government of the United States as an Artist of Extraordinary Ability.

Farkhad was born in Ashgabat, Turkmenistan, where he first studied violin, piano and composition at the State Music School for gifted musicians. At the age of 10, he distinguished himself as the youngest performer selected to play with the National Violin Ensemble of Turkmenistan and toured around Central Asia and Eastern Europe. As a soloist and a member of the Ensemble, Farkhad performed for the Presidents of France, Ukraine, Russia, Turkey, Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, and Turkmenistan. At the age of 12, he was chosen to represent the country at the International New Names Festival, sponsored by the Moscow Conservatory, and was named as one of the most promising young musicians at the festival. In 2001, Farkhad came to the United States to study at Interlochen Arts Academy and then completed his Bachelor of Music degree at the Oberlin Conservatory. He received his Master’s degree in orchestral conducting from Yale University.

Mr. Khudiyev is the winner of the 3rd prize at the 2017 International Sir Georg Solti Conducting Competition in Germany, the Best Interpretation Prize at the 1st International Taipei Conducting Competition in Taiwan, the Gold Medal and Grand Prize at the 2007 National Fischhoff Chamber Music Competition in the U.S.A., as well as the First Prize at the Yale Chamber Music Society Competition. Mr. Khudiyev has performed around the United States, Europe and Asia at world-class venues and festivals including the Kennedy Center in Washington D.C., Emilia Romagna Festival in Italy, DR Koncerthuset in Denmark, the Alte Oper Frankfurt Großer Saal and the Mecklenburg-Vorpommern Festspiele in Germany.

Farkhad’s performances are described as “true, powerful, ecstatic and utterly riveting” (*Herald*), “graceful, very sensitive...” (*Frankfurt Neue Presse*), and “a triumph in every sense of the word” (*New York Music Daily*). Admired for “meticulous guidance, superb musicianship and extraordinarily imaginative interpretation” (*Performing Arts Monterey Bay*), Mr. Khudiyev has worked with the London Philharmonic Orchestra, Frankfurt Radio Symphony Orchestra, Frankfurt Opera Orchestra, Danish National Symphony Orchestra, San Diego Symphony, Monterey Symphony, Champaign-Urbana Symphony, Yale Philharmonia, Yale Symphony Orchestra, Greenwich Village Orchestra of New York City, New Jersey Youth Symphony, Manhattan School of Music Orchestra, National Orchestra of Turkmenistan, and the State Taipei Chinese Orchestra. Farkhad has served as the Assistant Conductor of the London Philharmonic Orchestra, the Music Director of New Jersey Intergenerational Orchestra and the New Haven Chamber Orchestra, as well as the Associate Conductor of the Hidden Valley Opera. Currently, Mr. Khudiyev serves as the Music Director of the Hidden Valley Orchestra Institute and Youth Music Monterey County in California.

During 2018-19 Season, Mr. Khudiyev will have his debut with the Seattle Symphony and the Xian Symphony Orchestra in China.

Farkhad resides in Monterey, California, where he enjoys spending time with his Family and Nature.

Biography provided and approved by artist.

<http://www.farkhadkhudiyev.com>



Stephen Mulligan, conductor, 2018 Solti U.S. Career Assistance Award Recipient



Conductor Stephen Mulligan has been the Assistant Conductor of the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra and the Music Director of the Atlanta Symphony Youth Orchestra since August 2017. In late January, Mulligan stepped in at the last minute to replace an ill Robert Spano to critical acclaim on a program with mezzo-soprano Jennifer Johnson Cano and pianist Jorge Osorio. The following week, he led a second subscription week in Spano's stead. One month later, he stepped in yet again on a third subscription concert with pianist Behzod Abduraimov. In his first season he will conduct seventy performances with the ASO.

Mulligan has also frequently worked at the Los Angeles Philharmonic, recently assisting John Adams on a production of his opera "Nixon in China" at Walt Disney Concert Hall and Gustavo Dudamel in a production of Bernstein's "West Side Story" at the Hollywood Bowl. From 2014-16, Mulligan served as Assistant Conductor of the Winston-Salem Symphony and the Music Director of the Winston-Salem Symphony Youth Orchestras Program. Other recent highlights include appearances with the St. Louis Symphony, Florida Orchestra, Charlotte Symphony Orchestra, Memphis Symphony Orchestra, Amarillo Symphony Orchestra, Reading Symphony Orchestra, London Symphonia, and Orquestra Sinfônica do Estado de São Paulo. Mulligan was awarded the Aspen Conducting Prize after studying with Robert Spano as a fellow in the American Academy of Conducting at Aspen from 2013-2014. He then served as the festival's Assistant Conductor in 2015 and as a guest conductor in 2016. Before attending Aspen, Mulligan studied with Gustav Meier, Markand Thakar, and Marin Alsop at the Peabody Institute, and received his Master's Degree there in 2013. In 2011, Mulligan graduated cum laude from Yale University, where he served as the Yale Symphony's assistant conductor and was awarded the Wrexham Prize for excellence in performance for violin and conducting.

Mulligan grew up in Baltimore, MD, studying violin with his father Gregory, former concertmaster of the San Antonio Symphony and current violinist with the Baltimore Symphony Orchestra.

Biography provided and approved by artist.

<https://www.stephenamulligan.com/>



Sameer Patel, conductor, 2018 Solti U.S. Career Assistance Award Recipient



Internationally recognized for his versatile musicianship and passionate communication, Sameer Patel is one of America's most exciting young conductors. A three-time recipient of Solti Foundation U.S. Career Assistance Awards, Sameer is currently in his third season as the Associate Conductor of the San Diego Symphony. He is also the Associate Conductor of the Sun Valley Summer Symphony, whose distinguished musicians come from many of North America's finest orchestras.

Sameer's work as a conductor has taken him across North America, South America, and Europe. In the 2017-2018 season, Sameer makes his highly anticipated subscription debut conducting two programs with the San Diego Symphony. He also leads operatic works with the Sacramento Philharmonic and Opera, conducts modern masterpieces of the 20th and 21st centuries with the La Jolla Symphony and Los Angeles Chamber Orchestra, shares the podium with legendary film composer John Williams, and closes Symphony New Hampshire's season with Beethoven's Symphony No. 9. Devoted to the music of living composers, in the current season Sameer also conducts works by Ellen Reid, Hannah Lash, George Walker, Tan Dun, Derek Bermel, Mason Bates, and the world premiere of Adam Schoenberg's violin concerto *Orchard in Fog*. Additional recent guest conducting engagements include appearances with the National Symphony Orchestra, St. Louis Symphony, Toronto Symphony Orchestra, Detroit Symphony Orchestra, New Jersey Symphony, Fresno Philharmonic, Orchestra Sinfonica di Sanremo, Knoxville Symphony Orchestra, Pacific Symphony, Phoenix Symphony, Toledo Symphony Orchestra, Alabama Symphony Orchestra, Naples Philharmonic, Reading Symphony Orchestra, Leipziger Sinfonieorchester, Orchestra Giovanile Italiana, the Jacksonville Symphony Orchestra, and the Chicago Sinfonietta.

In 2016, Sameer was selected out of a field of more than 120 conductors to study at the renowned Accademia Musicale Chigiana in Siena, Italy with Daniele Gatti, Chief Conductor of the Royal Concertgebouw Orchestra. Immediately following his participation in the masterclass, Sameer was selected by Maestro Gatti for further concerts in Europe, and he immediately returned to Italy to lead two acclaimed programs with the Orchestra Sinfonica di Sanremo. He was also a Felix Mendelssohn-Bartholdy Scholar, an honor given to him by former New York Philharmonic Music Director Kurt Masur. As part of this award, Sameer traveled to Europe to study with and assist Maestro Masur with the Leipzig Gewandhaus Orchestra and the Finnish Radio Symphony Orchestra. In 2013, Sameer was one of only six conductors selected by the League of American Orchestras for the Bruno Walter National Conductor Preview with the Jacksonville Symphony Orchestra, an event that showcases emerging conductors to industry professionals and which led to subsequent, multiple engagements with that orchestra. Prior to joining the San Diego Symphony, Sameer was the Associate Conductor of the Fort Wayne Philharmonic for three seasons and held prestigious conducting fellowships with the Chicago Sinfonietta and the Boston Philharmonic.

A graduate of the University of Michigan, Sameer furthered his training in Europe with some of the greatest conductors of our time, including Gianandrea Noseda, Daniele Gatti, the late Kurt Masur, Bernard Haitink, David Zinman, and Neeme and Paavo Järvi.

Biography provided and approved by artist.

<http://sameer-patel.com/>



Stefano Sarzani, conductor, 2018 Solti U.S. Career Assistance Award Recipient



Stefano Sarzani cultivates an international career in North America and Europe and has been praised for his passionate conducting style in a wide range of repertoire, from baroque to contemporary. He has also a natural ease both on the stage and in the pit, actively pursuing a career that tries to keep together both operatic and symphonic music: strongly convinced of the unity of music and of the value of interdisciplinary exchange, he has a whole-round education that allows him to navigate securely all kinds of cultural dimensions. Italian born, educated in both Europe and America, married to Chinese and with a passion for foreign languages and literatures, he incarnates the 21st century artist who's able to integrate

the roots of European culture with the new stimuli of the hyperconnected contemporary world.

Mr. Sarzani is music director candidate for the orchestra Symphony NH where he will conduct in the spring 2019. He recently worked at the Lyric Opera of Chicago as part of The Solti Foundation U.S.'s Opera Residency program; he returns this fall as an Assistant Conductor and member of the Music Staff to assist and cover *La Bohème* and *Il trovatore*. An alumnus of the prestigious Monteux School of Conducting, this summer he will be back in Maine, this time to assist Maestro Stephen Lord on *Le nozze di Figaro* at OperaMaine.

In the past summer, at Des Moines Metro Opera he conducted Piazzolla's masterpiece, *Maria de Buenos Aires* obtaining a huge success and receiving great critical acclaim. His recent conducting engagements also include *Suor Angelica* and *Gianni Schicchi* at the University of Memphis and symphonic concerts with the Orchestra Filarmonica Marchigiana (Italy). Mr. Sarzani has conducted and collaborated with symphonic and operatic institutions such as Boise Philharmonic Orchestra, National Repertory Orchestra (Colorado), Orchestra Sinfonica di Sanremo (Italy), Den Jyske Opera (Denmark), Opera National de Lorraine (France), Atlanta Opera and Sarasota Opera. Already a recipient of the Solti Foundation U.S. Career Assistance Award in 2016, he is also invested in cultivating interactions among music, multimedia, and other art forms.

Mr. Sarzani's education observes the finest of both American and European traditions, represented by institutions including Indiana University, University of Cincinnati College-Conservatory of Music, Monteux School, and in Italy, Conservatorio G. Rossini (Pesaro), Accademia Musicale Chigiana (Siena), and Accademia Musicale Pescarese (Pescara). In addition, he holds a master's degree in political science from the University of Bologna.

Biography provided and approved by artist.

<http://stefanosarzani.com/>



Lidiya Yankovskaya, conductor, 2018 Solti U.S. Care Assistance Award Recipient



Russian-born conductor Lidiya Yankovskaya serves as Music Director with Chicago Opera Theater, a resident artist at National Sawdust in NYC, and Artistic Director of Refugee Orchestra Project. Until recently, Lidiya also served as a conductor with Boston Youth Symphony Orchestra, as a regular guest chorus master with Boston Symphony Orchestra, and as the Artistic Director of Juventas New Music Ensemble/Boston New Music Festival.

Lidiya's conducting engagements this season include Washington National Opera, Stamford Symphony, Chicago Philharmonic, Wolftrap Opera, Spoleto Festival USA, Mobile Symphony Orchestra, Beth Morrison Projects, Symphony New Hampshire, assisting on a program with the London Philharmonic, and a workshop of a new work with The Metropolitan Opera. She was also featured in the 2017 Bruno Walter National Conductor Preview, and is a part of Marin Alsop's Taki Concordia Fellowship and The Dallas Opera's Hart Institute for Women Conductors, and has previously served as assistant conductor to Lorin Maazel at the Castleton Festival, where she regularly stepped in for Maazel in rehearsals and performances.

Other previous positions include serving as Music Director with Harvard's Lowell House Opera, where she was also a Harvard Davis Center associate scholar. In her work as an artistic leader, Lidiya has become known as a champion of living composers and cross-disciplinary collaborative projects, alongside her work with traditional repertoire.

Under her leadership, Juventas New Music produced annual operatic premieres and performances that cross disciplinary boundaries, including musical collaborations with robots, puppeteers, visual artists, circus performers, and more. Lidiya has also been an advocate for lesser known repertory and Russian operatic works, most recently conducting American premieres of Rimsky-Korsakov's *Kashchej the Immortal*, Symphony No.1 and *Snegurochka*, Rubinshteyn's *The Demon*, and an upcoming U.S. premiere of Donizetti's *Pia de' Tolomei*.

Under her leadership, Chicago Opera Theater has established the new Vanguard Initiative, focused on composer mentorship and development of new work.

Biography provided and approved by artist.

<http://www.lidiyayankovskaya.com/>