In collaboration with:

## L'AUDITORI BANDA BANDA MUNICIPAL DE BARCELONA



# L'Auditori of Barcelona and the Barcelona Symphony Band launch the First Band Conducting Course, which will be held next July

The course will take place between 13 and 17 July and will be directed by José Rafael Pascual-Vilaplana, chief conductor of the Barcelona Symphony Band (Banda Municipal de Barcelona).

The Barcelona Symphony Band will be available for students to work with throughout the course, and in addition, students will be able to conduct the band in the closing concert.

L'Auditori of Barcelona and the Barcelona Symphony Band, with the collaboration of the Catalan Federation of Music Associations (FCSM), organise the First Band Conducting Course at L'Auditori. Directed by José Rafael Pascual-Vilaplana (chief conductor of the Barcelona Symphony Band), the course will take place between 13 and 17 July.

With this course, L'Auditori and the Band want to contribute to talent enrichment in the world of band conducting through a theoretical and practical training. Students will work on the repertoire with the Barcelona Symphony Band and they will approach several aspects such as the study of body language, score analysis and study techniques, rehearsal planning, the challenge for conductors to achieve fine-tuning, and also other essential aspects –given the nature of music bands– such as programming in an amateur band, motivation and the evolution of music bands.

José Rafael Pascual-Vilaplana has had some experience in similar courses, a fact that has led the chief conductor of the Barcelona Symphony Band to envision a course that will allow band conductors to delve into the technical aspects of their own figure so that they can obtain a context vision of music bands not only from the perspective of original works for this type of music group, but also from the point of view of the band's uniqueness as an orchestral group.

The last day of the course (17 July) will be devoted to preparing the closing concert, in which the students participating as active students will conduct the Barcelona Symphony Band with the musical works they will have been working on during the week. The concert will take place in Room 2 Oriol Martorell at L'Auditori in Barcelona and it will be of free access.

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#### **Two enrolment options**

In order to make the First Band Conducting Course in L'Auditori as open as possible, a maximum number of 10 active students will be admitted, and also guest students will be allowed to attend. Guest students will be able to attend the theoretical and practical lessons as audience. Lessons will take place in the morning and in the afternoon.

#### José Rafael Pascual-Vilaplana, a well-established conductor

José Rafael Pascual-Vilaplana, chief conductor of the Barcelona Symphony Band, has a track record that vouches for his excellence in conducting as well as composing. Born in Muro (Alicante), he studied Band Conducting in the Netherlands with experts such as Jan Cober and Eugene Corporon, and Orchestra Conducting in Vienna with figures such as Karl Österreicher, Yuji Yuhasa and Hans Graf.

He has conducted the Buenos Aires Symphony Band, the National Youth Orchestra of the Netherlands, the Cuba Symphony Band and the municipal bands of Alicante, Castellón, Madrid, Pontevedra and Santa Cruz de Tenerife, among others. Since 2018 he is chief conductor of the Barcelona Symphony Band. In addition, he is conductor of "Filharmonia" (a wind orchestra) and also main guest conductor of the Portuguese Symphony Band of Oporto.

He is professor of band conducting at ECM Vall d'Albaida and at ISEB in Trento (Italy). He has received many composition awards, among which it is worth highlighting the First Prize "Baton of Honour" in the 1<sup>st</sup> European Contest of Young Conductors of the EBBA in Birmingham (England) or the Euterpe Award in Festive Music Composition and the Euterpe Award in Band Conducting, awarded by the Valencian Federation of Music Associations (FSMCV).

### The Barcelona Symphony Band, an institution with more than 130 years of history

The Barcelona Symphony Band is one of the oldest music associations in Barcelona. It was founded in 1886 by the Barcelona City Council, and since 2007 it is resident band at L'Auditori, where it offers an established concert season. It develops several projects in collaboration with national and international artists and groups. Since September 2018 it has started a new stage with José Rafael Pascual-Vilaplana as chief conductor.

In 2016 the Band celebrated its 130<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Throughout all these years it has remained loyal to the goals that led to its foundation: bringing the music of great composers to citizens and offering high-quality performances. Moreover, it has successfully adapted to new challenges by disseminating modern music band repertoire, asking Catalan composers to create new works to premiere, or collaborating with heterogeneous artists.

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Nowadays, the Barcelona Symphony Band is an association committed to the society that surrounds it, being highly participant in its times and an active player in the instrumental music scene of Barcelona.

For further information about the First Band Conducting Course in L'Auditori from 13 to 17 July 2020, please contact **cursdirecciobandes2020@gmail.com** 

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