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Hailed as a conductor who leads with “passionate intensity,” Roger Kalia is one of America’s most exciting young conductors. A three-time recipient of The Solti Foundation U.S. Career Assistance Award, Kalia is currently in his first season as Music Director of Orchestra Santa Monica. Kalia was recently promoted to the position of Associate Conductor of Pacific Symphony after serving as its Assistant Conductor for three seasons. He continues his role as Music Director of the Pacific Symphony Youth Orchestra and serves as Co-Founder and Music Director of the Lake George Music Festival in upstate New York, one of the premier summer classical music festivals in the country.

Upcoming and recent engagements include the Szczecin Philharmonic (Poland), Wheeling Symphony, Lima Symphony Orchestra, Long Beach Symphony, Bakersfield Symphony, Camarada Chamber Orchestra, Great Falls Symphony, Boise Philharmonic, and Adrian Symphony, as

well as the National Symphony at the Kennedy Center and Chicago Sinfonietta at Symphony Hall. He has also served as cover conductor for the Los Angeles Philharmonic, San Diego Symphony, St. Louis Symphony, Kansas City Symphony and Indianapolis Symphony.

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.

Passionate about teaching the next generation of musicians, Kalia maintains a regular teaching relationship with The Colburn School, USC’s Thornton School of Music, and California State University at Fullerton. Kalia has worked with youth orchestras across the country, including the 2018 Missouri All-State Symphony Orchestra. Kalia has created family and educational concerts for orchestras across the country including the use of multimedia, semi-staged operas, and collaborations with groups such as Cirque de la Symphony and speed painter Dan Dunn.

A passionate advocate of modern music, Kalia has commissioned and programmed more than 100 works by some of America’s most innovative composers. He conducted the Orange County premiere of Austin Wintory’s *Journey Suite* with the Pacific Symphony Youth Orchestra, the first video game score to be nominated for a Grammy.

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 David Zinman International Conducting Masterclass with the Tonhalle Orchestra Zurich, and the Kurt Masur Conducting Seminar at the Manhattan School of Music. He holds degrees from Indiana University, the University of Houston and SUNY Potsdam’s Crane School of Music. At IU, he served as an Associate Instructor and Assistant Conductor of the IU Opera Theater and New Music Ensemble.

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

Roger Kalia

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