Justin Bischof

Justin Bischof has forged a distinctive international career at the conductor's podium and the organ console, bringing an exceptional breadth of musical experience to both. Equally at home in the symphonic and operatic repertoire and as a virtuoso concert organist, he has earned critical acclaim for performances that *The New York Times* described as "impressive…spontaneous…subtle…." His appearances have taken him to Carnegie Hall, Lincoln Center, the Tonhalle in Zurich, the Royal Opera House in Oman, St. Paul's Cathedral in London, Notre-Dame Cathedral in Paris, and Cologne Cathedral. He has collaborated with distinguished artists including Joshua Bell, Philippe Entremont, Bright Sheng, Tan Dun, and Roberta Peters. His conducting engagements include the National Arts Centre Orchestra of Canada, Ensemble Orchestral de Paris, Vancouver Symphony, Royal Symphony Orchestra of Oman, and National Orchestra of Haiti.

Bischof is Founder and Artistic Director of **MOO | Modus Operandi Orchestra**, a New York City ensemble comprising 65 exceptional freelance musicians. Dedicated to presenting the great symphonic and operatic repertoire alongside contemporary works, MOO provides leading orchestral players the opportunity to perform major works with their colleagues. Its musicians have also appeared with the Metropolitan Opera, New York Philharmonic, Cleveland Orchestra, and other internationally renowned ensembles. Recent highlights include bicentennial concerts at Saint Thomas Church Fifth Avenue featuring Rachmaninoff's Third Piano Concerto with Jeremy Filsell, and the New York premiere of Rachel Burckardt's *Auburn Requiem*.

His operatic career includes the critically acclaimed Australian premiere of Robert Ward's Pulitzer Prize-winning *The Crucible*, the Hawaiian premieres of Menotti's *The Medium* and *The Telephone*, and productions of Mozart's *The Marriage of Figaro*, *Don Giovanni*, and *Così fan tutte*. He also conducted Britten's *The Rape of Lucretia* at New York's Flea Theater.

As a concert organist, Bischof has been described as "a master virtuoso" by *The Frankfurt News* and "virtuosic" by the *Los Angeles Times*. Winner of First Prize at the 2000 American Guild of Organists International Organ Improvisation Competition, he is particularly celebrated for his all-improvisation recitals. He has performed and recorded with the Zurich Symphony, Orchestra of St. Luke's, and Milwaukee Symphony, and has presented Middle Eastern premieres of major works for organ and orchestra by Samuel Barber, Malcolm Arnold, and Percy Whitlock.

Bischof has held music directorships at the Church of the Heavenly Rest and the Church of the Resurrection, both on Manhattan's Upper East Side, and at the Church of St. James the

Less in Scarsdale. At St. James the Less, he oversaw the installation of a $2 million Klais organ and substantially expanded the parish's choral program. He also served for fifteen years as Music Director of Westchester Reform Temple. He currently serves as Director of Music and Organist at Christ Church Pelham Manor, where he leads the parish's music program and Friends of Music concert series, and as Music Director of Larchmont Temple.

An active composer, his commissions include *Romp for Pedals & Orchestra*, premiered at the 2023 American Guild of Organists convention. His solo version of the work received its world premiere in May 2026 at The Riverside Church in New York, performed by internationally acclaimed concert organist Stephen Tharp. His compositions also include choral works commissioned by Park Avenue Synagogue.

A commitment to music's transformative power has inspired extensive outreach initiatives. With Dorothy E. Yewer, Bischof founded an annual children's benefit that raised more than $1 million over ten years, helping over 800 at-risk children attend summer camp. He also traveled annually to Haiti to work with young musicians of the Orchestre Philharmonique Sainte Trinité and Les Petits Chanteurs in Port-au-Prince.

A graduate of Manhattan School of Music, where he subsequently served on the faculty for many years, Bischof is Chair of its Alumni Association, representing an international community of approximately 19,000 alumni. He recently completed a five-year term as Chair of the Conductors Retreat at Medomak in Maine. He has also taught at Barnard College and Westminster Choir College. He continues to mentor musicians and arts leaders internationally.