

Julie Desbordes, DMA
Orchestra, Band, Opera & Choral Conductor
Teacher of Conducting; Music Educator
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CONDUCTING EXPERIENCE (selected)

Current Conducting Appointments

Director of Orchestras, Faculty Associate - University of Arizona, Tucson, AZ	2026-present
Music Director and Conductor Symphony of the Southwest - Phoenix, AZ	2025-present
Music Director and Conductor Salt River Brass - Gilbert, AZ	2022-present
Music Director and Conductor Philharmonic Orchestra of Phoenix Youth Symphony	2022-present
Music Director and Conductor Philharmonia Orchestra, Arizona State University, Tempe, AZ	2019-2026

Past Conducting Appointments

Conductor	Arizona State University Symphony Orchestra - Tempe, AZ	2023-2024
Music Director and Conductor	Tempe Winds - Tempe, AZ	2022-2024
Conductor	Fresno Summer Orch. Acad. Youth Orchestra - Fresno, CA	2022-2025
Assistant Conductor	National Youth Orchestras of the U.S. (NYO & NYO2) - New York, NY	2021
Assistant Conductor	National Youth Orchestras of the U.S. (COVID postponement)	2020
Artistic Director & Conductor	Queer Urban Orchestra - New York, NY	2014-2019
Assistant Conductor	Mid-Atlantic Symphony - Baltimore, MD	2017-2019
Assoc. Artistic Dir./Conductor	The Chelsea Symphony (Education and Outreach) - NYC	2014-2016
Associate Conductor	The Chelsea Symphony - New York, NY	2013-2014
Music Director and Conductor	Turtle Bay Youth Orchestra - New York, NY	2015-2019
Music Director and Conductor	Harmony El Sistema Program - New York, NY	2011-2016
Associate Conductor	Harmonie Municipale de Limoges - France	2004-2007

Guest Conducting - International

4 th Taiwan International Band & Orchestra Conference	Kaohsiung, Taiwan	2025, 2026 (invited)
Tainan Summer Band Festival	Tainan, Taiwan	2016-present
National Band of Cuba	Havana, Cuba	(COVID postponed)
Stage d'harmonie, de Pâques	Saint-Léonard de Noblat, France	2018
Kaoshung Band Festival	Kaoshung, Taiwan	2017
Qingdao Symphony Orchestra	Qingdao, China	2017
Malaysian Philharmonic Orchestra	Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia	2016
Malaysian Philharmonic Youth Orchestra	Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia	2016
WindHabana Music Festival	Havana, Cuba	2015
National Band of Cuba	Havana, Cuba	2015
NeoWind Festival	Hong Kong, China	2015
Macau International Wind Band	Macau, China	2015

CONDUCTING EXPERIENCE (selected, continued)

Guest Conducting - National

TMEA Region 24 All-Region Symphony Orchestra	McKinney, Texas	2023
Carnegie Hall Summer Music Educators Workshop	New York, NY	(COVID postponed) 2020
Chappaqua Symphony Orchestra	New York, NY	2019
Carnegie Hall Summer Music Educators Workshop	New York, NY	2019
Orchestra of Saint Luke's Youth Program	New York, NY	2017-2019
Water Island Music Festival	US Virgin Islands	2012-2018
New York Repertory Orchestra	New York, NY	2016
Ballez Ballet Orchestra	New York, NY	2016
Litha Symphony	New York, NY	2015-2017

Opera and Choral Guest Conducting

Valley Opera	Phoenix, AZ	2025, 2026 TBD
Puccini, Suor Angelica (2025); invited for 2026 TBD		
Phoenix Children Chorus	Phoenix, AZ	2024-present
Arizona State University Gospel Choir	Tempe, AZ	2022, 2024, 2026 TBD
Arizona State University Opera – Tempe, AZ		2021
Humperdinck, Hansel and Gretel		
Nominated for an "Arizoni" for Best Musical Direction		

Guest Conducting and Clinician – Regional/Arizona

AMEA All-Regional Orchestra	Greater Phoenix, AZ	2023, 2024, 2025, 2026
BASIS Schools Honor Festival	Phoenix, AZ	2025
Conducting Seminar for Band Directors	Phoenix, AZ	2023
SRB/Sandra Day O'Connor HS Conductor/ Clinician		
Seminar Clinic for String Ensemble, Corona Del Sol HS	Tempe, AZ	2023
Desert Ridge High School Band and Orchestra Festival	Mesa, AZ	2023
Regional Orchestral Festival, McClintock High School	Tempe, AZ	2023
Thunderbird Honor Orchestra, Thunderbird High School	Phoenix, AZ	2022
Glendale Union High School Band & Orchestra Festival	Glendale, AZ	2022
Highland High School Band & Orchestra Festival	Gilbert, AZ	2022
Camelback Festival	Phoenix, AZ	2020
Gililand Middle School	Tempe, AZ	2019

El-Sistema Work (Guest Conductor, Teaching Artist, Broadcast)

Harmony Project	Phoenix, AZ	2019-2022
Conductor/Teaching Artist		
Corona Youth Music Project	New York, NY	2016-2017
Conductor/Teaching Artist		
OrchKids (of the Baltimore Symphony Orchestra)	Baltimore, MD	2014, 2017
Guest Conductor/Teaching Artist		
Harmony Program	New York, NY	2013-2016
Music Director/Conductor		
Netflix Documentary, <i>Crescendo! The Power of Music</i>		2015
Featured Conductor		
YOLA (Youth Orchestra of Los Angeles, El Sistema)	Los Angeles, CA	2014
Guest Conductor/Teaching Artist		
Acarigua Summer Seminario	Acarigua, Venezuela	2013-2014
Guest Conductor/Teaching Artist		

EDUCATION

Academic Degrees

Doctor of Musical Arts	Orchestral Conducting, Peabody Conservatory, Baltimore, MD	2025
Master of Music	Orchestral Conducting, Conservatoire de Musique, Montreal, Canada	2010
Master of Music	Trumpet Performance, Conservatoire de Musique, Montreal, Canada	2010
Bachelor of Music	Trumpet Performance, Conservatoire de Musique, Montreal, Canada	2009
DESM I	Orchestral Conducting (Bachelor), Conservatoire de Musique, Montreal	2008
Baccalauréat	Specialization Music; (High school diploma), Lycée Léonard Limosin, France	1998

Diplomas from French Conservatoires

1 st Prize Diploma	Specialized in Interpretation, Conservatoire de Bordeaux	2006
DESM in Conducting	(Bachelor equivalent), Conservatoire de Limoges	2006
DEM in Cornet	(End of Studies Diploma), Conservatoire de Bordeaux	2005
DEM in Chamber Music	(End of Studies Diploma), Conservatoire de Bordeaux	2004

Principal Conducting Teachers

Marin Alsop	Peabody Conservatory & Cabrillo Music Festival	2016-2019
Gustav Meier	Weekly private lessons, Baltimore, MD	2012-2016
Raffi Armenian	Conservatoire de Musique, Montreal, Canada	2007-2010
Alain Voirpy	Conservatoire de Musique, Limoges, France	2002-2006

HIGHER EDUCATION TEACHING EXPERIENCE – ARIZONA STATE UNIVERSITY, TEMPE, AZ

Orchestra & Conducting *(see Appendix for complete list of ASU courses taught)*

Music Director, Philharmonia Orchestra

2019-2023; 2024-present

Oversee orchestra budget	Coordinate assistant conductors, guest artists and
Recruit and retain musicians	guest faculty appearances
Coordinate and host guest artists	Co-lead production meetings; design stage charts
Design each season's repertoire and theming	Co-drive the orchestras' marketing efforts
Co-manage venues and travels	Collaborate with non-Music colleagues across ASU

Faculty Associate

2019-2023; 2024-present

Teach/conduct concerts and rehearsals	Mentor assistant conductors
Teach beginning and intermediate conducting	Partner with faculty for auditions,
Mentor student leadership groups	seatings, bowings and sectionals

Conductor ASU Symphony Orchestra (1-year appt)

2023-2024

Taught/conducted concerts and rehearsals	Co-lead Gammage Aud. production meetings
Oversaw the orchestral budget	Co-drove the orchestras' marketing efforts
Coordinated and host guest artists	Collaborated with non-Music colleagues across ASU
Designed the season's repertoire and theming	Oversaw stage plots
Managed orchestra scheduling	Liaised with Stage Crew
Co-managed venue communications	

Instructor (1-year appointment)

2023-2024

Taught and mentored DMA conducting students	Partnered with faculty for auditions,
Led studio orchestra sessions	seatings, bowings and sectionals
Taught beginning and intermediate conducting	Mentored student leadership groups
Taught conducting and core educational topics	Mentored music educators

HIGHER EDUCATION TEACHING EXPERIENCE – ASU, TEMPE, AZ (CONTINUED)

Collaborations/Community Engagement (selected)

ASU Symphony Orchestra – ¡Viva México! 2023

Produced and conducted sold-out concert (~3,000 seats), partnering with the ASU Mariachi and Brass Ensembles, the Mexican Consulate, ASU Office of Government and Community Engagement, Mariachi Garibaldi of Los Angeles, and others.

Arizona State University Philharmonia

Collaborations with ASU Dance Department 2019; 2022
Guest conductor, ASU Gospel Choir 2022, 2024, 2026 TBD

Institutional Equity Leadership

ASU School of Music, Dance and Theatre Pride Concert 2019; 2021-2025
Founded, organized, curated and MC'd the first Pride concerts at SoMDT

Mentoring of Student Groups (selected)

ASU Philharmonia	Leadership group mentoring (program notes, public speaking)	2019-present
ASU Symphony Orchestra	Revived leadership group	Fall 2023
ASU Priority Male	Student singing group (guided concert/rehearsal planning)	2020-2021
ASU Music for Healing	Student music therapy group (aided project planning)	2020-2021

MUSIC EDUCATION TEACHING EXPERIENCE (Weill Music Institute of Carnegie Hall)

Core Faculty	Carnegie Hall Summer Music Educators Workshop - NYC	2019, 2020, 2022, 2024
	Designed and implemented curriculum	
	Taught/conducted concerts and rehearsals	

Faculty Artist	Carnegie Hall Music Educators Workshop - NYC	Spring & Fall, 2021
	Designed innovative curriculum	
	Conducted concerts and rehearsals	
	Taught conducting and core educational concepts	
	Mentored music educators	

ADDITIONAL MUSIC TEACHING (Trumpet, Brass, General Music)

Trumpet Faculty	Phoenix College, Maricopa Community Colleges	Phoenix, AZ	2021
Trumpet Faculty	Peabody Preparatory	Baltimore, MD	2018-2019
Music Director	Turtle Bay Music School	New York, NY	2015-2019
Trumpet Faculty	Turtle Bay Music School	New York, NY	2015-2017
General Music	Nord Anglia International School	New York, NY	2014-2016
Brass Band Director	Nord Anglia International School	New York, NY	2014-2016
Site Director	Harmony Program (also Conductor, Coach)	New York, NY	2012-2015
Brass Instructor	Summer Academies, El Seminario	Acarigua, Venezuela	2013-2014
Trumpet Instructor	WHIN Music Project	New York, NY	2013-2014
Teaching Artist	Harmony Program	New York, NY	2010-2012
Trumpet Faculty	Ecole de musique de l'Harmonie Municipale	Limoges, France	2004-2007

NON-PROFIT ADMINISTRATION

Music Director, Symphony of the Southwest, AZ	2025-present
Co-lead administration with the Board of Directors Design programming; present pre-concert talks Attract new donors; curate existing donors Co-manage budget and fundraising	Co-manage social media Develop and oversee community engagement Recruit and retain musicians Co-manage venues; liaise with stage crew
Music Director, Salt River Brass, Phoenix, AZ	2022-present
Co-lead administration with the Board of Directors Design programming; organize pre-concert talks Attract new donors; steward existing donors Co-manage budget & fundraising	Oversee community engagement Recruit and retain musicians Created SRB Youth Brass Band Co-manage venues & social media efforts
Music Director and Conductor, Philharmonic Orchestra of Phoenix Youth Symphony	2022-present
Recruit, audition and retain musicians Recruit, hire and coordinate sectional coaches Design the season's repertoire and theming Coordinate assistant conductors	Co-lead production meetings Co-lead pre-season retreat Design stage plots Steward relationships with students' parents
Artistic Director & Conductor, The Queer Urban Orchestra (QUO), New York, NY	2014-2019
Co-led administration with the Board of Directors Designed and presented pre-concert talks Programmed concerts; motivated performers Attracted new donors; stewarded existing donors	Hosted and performed yearly fundraising gala Co-managed fundraising and budgeting Developed and oversaw community engagement Recruited and retained musicians
Associate Conductor, The Chelsea Symphony, New York, NY	2014-2016
Designed programming Coordinated rehearsals	Supported the Board of Directors Worked with guest conductors
Site Director, Conductor & Coach, The Harmony Program, New York, NY	2012-2015
Designed and oversaw curriculum Managed site schedule; trained Site Directors Recruited teaching artists	Supervised teachers, staff and students Liaised with site venue administration Taught masterclasses in Harlem, Wash. Hts., Brooklyn

ADJUDICATING

Arizona All State Orchestra & Band Competition	Phoenix, AZ	2022
ASU Concerto Competition	Tempe, AZ	2020, 2021, 2022

CONFERENCES / WORKSHOPS (selected)

Guest Conductor	ITEC - International Tuba and Euphonium Conference, Tempe AZ	2023
Panelist	Conductors Guild Conference (Virtual)	2021
Panelist	CentriCITY, League of American Orchestras National Conference "Engaging the LGBTQ+ Community"	2019
Attendee	Philadelphia Conductors Guild Conference	2017
Fellow	Cabrillo Music Festival Conducting Workshop, Santa Cruz CA,	2015, 2016

TRAININGS (selected)

"After School Arts with Juilliard" (K-12) training program	2016
"Teaching Music to Students on the Autism Spectrum," Berklee Institute for Accessible Arts Education	2013

FILM, TELEVISION

Featured Conductor	Netflix Documentary, <i>Crescendo! The Power of Music</i>	2015
Orchestra Musician	Netflix Series, <i>Mozart in the Jungle</i>	2014
Score Coordinator	MET Opera Broadcasts	2011-13

RADIO, PODCASTS, BROADCASTS

Guest	"From the KBACH Performance Studio" series, with Greg Kostraba	2025
Guest	"The Heart of the Arts" on KBACH, with Michael Keelan	2025
Guest	"Brass Roots" Images AZ Podcast	2022
Featured Conductor	Harmony Program, PBS News Hour Broadcast, New York, NY	2012

AWARDS

Nominated	"Arizoni" for Best Musical Direction - ASU Opera <i>Hansel and Gretel</i>	2022
Finalist, International	MAWOMA Music And Women Maestra Conducting Competition	2019
Fellow	Cabrillo Music Festival Conducting Workshop, Santa Cruz, CA	2016
Co-winner	DADSM (Diploma of Aptitude to Conduct Musical Societies)	2006
	French National Conducting Comp., Conf. Musicale de France (CFM), Paris	

LANGUAGES

Bilingual in French and English
Working proficiency in Spanish and German

TECHNOLOGY

Microsoft Office
Notion
Slack; Pumble
Audio & video editing
Finale; BandLab
Website administration
Social media

APPENDIX: COURSES TAUGHT AT ASU

Spring 2026

MUP 340	Intermediate Conducting
MUP 442	Instrumental Ensembles: Philharmonia
MUP 499	Individualized Instruction
MUP 542	Instrumental Ensembles: Philharmonia
MUP 590	Reading and Conference (Research)

Fall 2025

MUP 210	Beginning Instrumental Conducting
MUP 442	Instrumental Ensembles: Philharmonia
MUP 499	Individualized Instruction
MUP 542	Instrumental Ensembles: Philharmonia

Spring 2025

MUP 340	Intermediate Conducting
MUP 442	Instrumental Ensembles: Philharmonia
MUP 499	Individualized Instruction
MUP 542	Instrumental Ensembles: Philharmonia
MUP 590	Reading and Conference (Research)

Fall 2024

MUP 210	Beginning Instrumental Conducting
MUP 442	Instrumental Ensembles: Philharmonia
MUP 499	Individualized Instruction
MUP 542	Instrumental Ensembles: Philharmonia

Spring 2024

MUP 340	Intermediate Conducting
MUP 442	Instrumental Ensembles: Orch. Strings
MUP 442	Instrumental Ensembles: Philharmonia
MUP 499	Individualized Instruction
MUP 527	Studio Instruction: Conducting/Orch.
MUP 540	Principles of Integrated Conducting
MUP 542	Instrumental Ensembles: Orch. Strings
MUP 542	Instrumental Ensembles: Philharmonia
MUP 596	Solo Performance (Research)
MUP 598	Orch. Conducting Studio (Lecture)
MUP 727	Studio Instruction: Conducting Orch.
MUP 796	Solo Performance (Research)

Fall 2023

MUP 210	Beginning Instrumental Conducting
MUP 442	Instrumental Ensembles: Orch. Strings
MUP 442	Instrumental Ensembles: Philharmonia
MUP 499	Individualized Instruction (Studio)
MUP 527	Studio Instruction: Conducting/Orch.
MUP 540	Principles of Integrated Conducting
MUP 542	Instrumental Ensembles: Orch. Strings
MUP 542	Instrumental Ensembles: Philharmonia
MUP 596	Solo Performance (Research)
MUP 598	Orch. Conducting Studio (Lecture)
MUP 727	Studio Instruction: Conducting Orch.
MUP 796	Solo Performance (Research)

Spring 2023

MUP 340	Intermediate Conducting
MUP 442	Instrumental Ensembles: Philharmonia
MUP 499	Individualized Instruction
MUP 542	Instrumental Ensembles: Philharmonia
MUP 590	Reading and Conference (Research)

Fall 2022

MUP 210	Beginning Instrumental Conducting
MUP 442	Instrumental Ensembles: Philharmonia
MUP 499	Individualized Instruction
MUP 542	Instrumental Ensembles: Philharmonia

Spring 2022

MUP 340	Intermediate Conducting
MUP 442	Instrumental Ensembles: Philharmonia
MUP 499	Individualized Instruction
MUP 542	Instrumental Ensembles: Philharmonia
MUP 590	Reading and Conference (Research)

Fall 2021

MUP 210	Beginning Instrumental Conducting
MUP 442	Instrumental Ensembles: Philharmonia
MUP 499	Individualized Instruction
MUP 542	Instrumental Ensembles: Philharmonia

Spring 2021

MUP 340	Intermediate Conducting
MUP 442	Instrumental Ensembles: Philharmonia
MUP 499	Individualized Instruction
MUP 542	Instrumental Ensembles: Philharmonia

Fall 2020

MUP 210	Beginning Instrumental Conducting
MUP 442	Instrumental Ensembles: Philharmonia
MUP 499	Individualized Instruction
MUP 542	Instrumental Ensembles: Philharmonia

Spring 2020

MUP 340	Intermediate Conducting
MUP 442	Instrumental Ensembles: Philharmonia
MUP 499	Individualized Instruction
MUP 542	Instrumental Ensembles: Philharmonia

Fall 2019

MUP 210	Beginning Instrumental Conducting
MUP 442	Instrumental Ensembles: Philharmonia
MUP 499	Individualized Instruction
MUP 542	Instrumental Ensembles: Philharmonia