

# JAMES BLACHLY, CONDUCTOR

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–THE NEW YORKER



[WWW.JAMESBLACHLY.COM](http://WWW.JAMESBLACHLY.COM)



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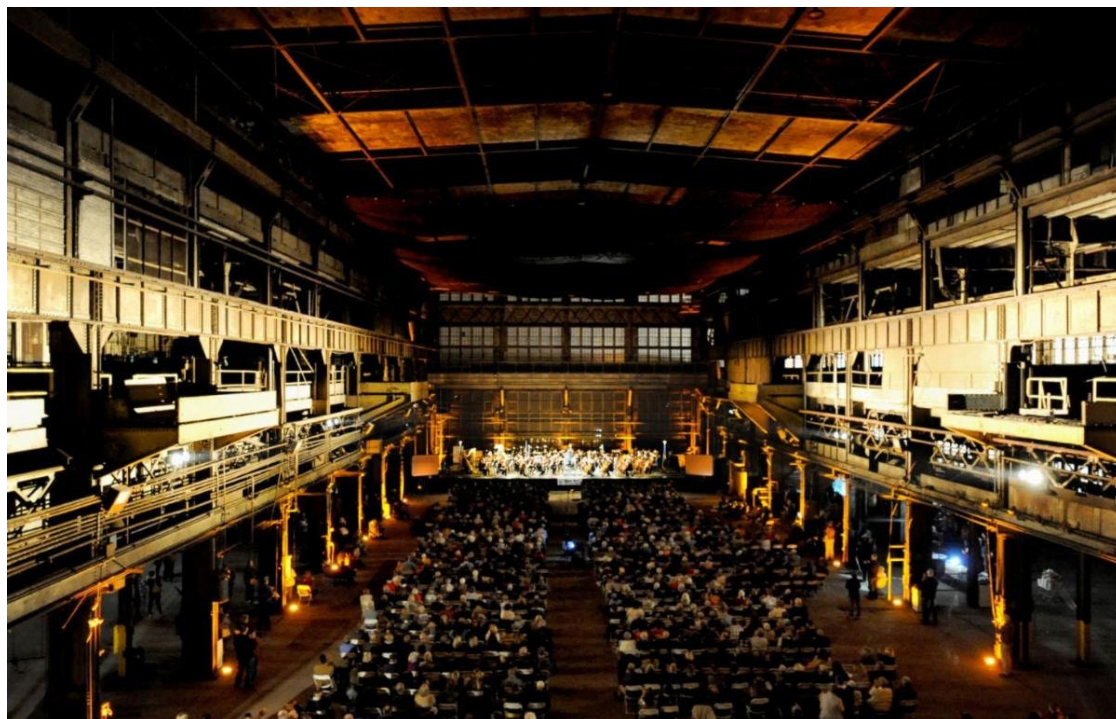
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# JAMES BLACHLY

James Blachly is a Grammy®-winning conductor dedicated to enriching the concert experience by connecting with audiences in memorable and meaningful ways. His world premiere recording of English composer Dame Ethel Smyth's 1930 masterpiece *The Prison*, released on Chandos Records, won a 2021 Grammy Award and was widely acclaimed by *The New York Times*, *The New Yorker*, *Gramophone*, *San Francisco Chronicle*, *Financial Times*, *The Guardian*, and many others.

In addition to frequent guest conducting appearances, Blachly currently serves as Music Director of the Johnstown Symphony Orchestra and of the Experiential Orchestra.



With the Johnstown Symphony, he conducted the orchestra in a former steel mill in a concert that was featured on Katie Couric's *America Inside Out*, and in five seasons the orchestra has increased season ticket sales by 43%.



With the Experiential Orchestra, he has invited audiences to dance to Stravinsky's *Rite of Spring* and Tchaikovsky's *Nutcracker*, sit within the orchestra at Lincoln Center, and engage with *Symphonie fantastique* and *Petrushka* with circus choreography at The Muse in Brooklyn.



PHOTO BY CROOKSTON PHOTOGRAPHY

In 2016, Blachly was the only conductor from the U.S. invited to participate in the Young Conductor's Showcase as a part of El Sistema's 40th Anniversary celebration, and he was also the only U.S. conductor to be invited as Conducting Fellow in Maestra Marin Alsop's final year at the Cabrillo Festival of Contemporary Music. His recent guest conducting engagements include the Spokane Symphony, Williamsburg Symphony, Portland Symphony (ME), Bohuslav Martinu Philharmonic, Malaysian Philharmonic, Danbury Symphony, and Odyssey Opera (Boston), as well as performances at Trinity Church Wall Street, Roulette, National Sawdust, Carnegie Hall, and Lincoln Center.

A strong supporter of composers of our time, Blachly has commissioned and premiered more than 40 works by composers including Jessie Montgomery, Courtney Bryan, Viet Cuong, Michi Wiancko, Kate Copeland Ettinger, Patrick Castillo, Brad and Doug Balliett, and many others. In recent seasons, he has collaborated with soloists Julia Bullock, Dashon Burton, Helga Davis, Sarah Brailey, Andrés Cárdenes, Michael Chioldi, Karen Kim, Andrew Yee, Owen Dalby, Jana Baty, and more.

In 2020, Blachly was invited to serve as the Associate Editor and Orchestral Liaison for the African Diaspora Music Project, directed by Dr. Louise Toppin. In that capacity, he has overseen the compilation of a database and website detailing more than 1,000 published works for orchestra by African diaspora composers.

Dedicated to finding new ways of empowering audiences, Blachly is in demand as a speaker on Listening as Leadership, bringing his expertise as a conductor and passion for music to Fortune 500 companies, schools, and other organizations. He has also conducted dozens of educational concerts for thousands of school children. For ten years he conducted workshops and clinics for the New York Philharmonic, served as Ensemble Director for the Baltimore Symphony's OrchKids program, and conducted clinics

and appearances throughout western Pennsylvania for the JSO. From 2010 to 2015, he performed benefit concerts of Mahler symphonies with New York freelancers to launch what is now Make Music NOLA, a thriving El Sistema-Inspired program in New Orleans.

Also active as a composer, James Blachly studied at Mannes with Robert Cuckson and privately with Charles Wuorinen and John Corigliano. His compositions have been celebrated as "vigorous and assured" by Chamber Music America, and a "splendidly crafted...tour de force" by the *Miami Herald*, and have been performed at The Stone, Zankel Hall, in Europe and across the U.S., in an audience for the Pope, and broadcast live on the CBC.

## RECENT RELEASE





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*“The conductor James Blachly elicits splendid work from the vocal soloists, Sarah Brailey and Dashon Burton, and from the Experiential Orchestra and Chorus.” - THE NEW YORKER*

*“Led by conductor James Blachly, the [Experiential Orchestra] takes an unconventional approach to classical music: Think spontaneous swaying, dancing and general revelry—or wherever the music leads you.” - TIME OUT NEW YORK*

*“Throughout the concert, Blachly displayed an articulate and artistic style, his every gesture finding immediate orchestral response.”  
- VIRGINIA GAZETTE*

*“James Blachly has been a gift to Johnstown, his passion and imagination a blessing for his Johnstown Symphony Orchestra and our region.” - THE TRIBUNE DEMOCRAT*