

ELIZABETH ASKREN CONDUCTOR



With “energetic and precise gestures, a confidence that seduces irresistibly” (paris.fr), Elizabeth Askren “imposes through assurance and genuineness... creating an atmosphere specific to unforgettable evenings” (Facilia). Her versatile scope in both symphonic and lyric repertoire, informed musical research, and passion as a pedagogue and community-builder have developed a multi-faceted and socially engaged career that is redefining the modern conductor.

Recent and upcoming performances include débuts in Europe with Romania’s Transylvanian State Philharmonic, the Romanian National Opera of Cluj-Napoca, and France’s Victor Hugo Franche-Comté orchestra featuring soloists Sophie Dervaux (Berlin Philharmonic, Vienna State Opera...) and Félix Dervaux (Amsterdam Concertgebouw), and in the United States with Kentucky Opera, the Dallas Opera, and Hawaii Opera Theatre.

Elizabeth Askren is invited throughout Europe and the United States to teach conducting and the art of leadership and is featured regularly in the American and European media (PBS Newshour, OperaWire, Radio France Internationale, France Musique...). Currently Conductor-in-residence at the Romanian National Academy of Music “Gheorghe Dima”, she is both an alumna and Faculty Ambassador for the Dallas Opera’s Hart Institute for Women Conductors.

Askren is the Founder and Artistic Director of TOA – Transylvanian Opera Academy, Romania’s first opera studio. Since its creation in 2017, TOA has been featured on national television and radio and in the press and benefitted from a unique observation residency with the National Opera of Paris’ Academy.

Askren holds diplomas in piano and conducting from the Juilliard School, Oberlin Conservatory, and the Conducting Institute of Bard in the United States, and the Schola Cantorum and the Ecole Normale de Musique in France. Her musical mentors include conductors Marin Alsop and Lorin Maazel, and pianists Byron Janis and Sergio Perticaroli. She was awarded the highest teaching diplomas from both the French Ministry of Culture (certificat d’aptitude en direction d’ensembles orchestrales) and the Romanian Ministry of Education (PhD, *magna cum laude*).

She is based in both Transylvania, where she resides with her husband and young daughter, and Paris, where she maintains a residence. Eager to contribute to her local communities, she has served on various educational and philanthropic boards, and consults for nonprofit organizations in the US and Europe.

ELIZABETH ASKREN

CONDUCTOR

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

GUEST CONDUCTOR (SELECTED)

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| NATIONAL ACADEMY OF MUSIC "GHEORGHE DIMA" (CLUJ-NAPOCA, RO) | 2019-2020 |
| ORCHESTRE "VICTOR HUGO" FRANCHE-COMTÉ (BESANÇON, FR) | DECEMBER 2019, 2017 |
| TRANSYLVANIAN STATE PHILHARMONIC , ROMANIAN MOZART FESTIVAL (CLUJ-NAPOCA, RO) | NOVEMBER 2019 |
| THE DALLAS OPERA , OFFENBACH'S <i>PEPITO</i> (DALLAS, TX) | MARCH 2019 |
| ROMANIAN NATIONAL OPERA , TOA GALA CONCERT, <i>NABUCCO</i> , <i>AMADEUS...</i> (CLUJ-NAPOCA, RO) | 2016, 2017 |
| KOLOSZVARI MAGYAR OPERA , MOZART FESTIVAL GALA CONCERT (CLUJ-NAPOCA, RO) | DECEMBER 2016 |
| TOULON OPERA ORCHESTRA , FESTIVAL PRÉSENCES FÉMININES (TOULON, FR) | MARCH 2016 |
| LONDON SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA , AIR STUDIOS RECORDING PROJECT (LONDON, UK) | FEBRUARY 2015 |
| ORCHESTRE DE BRETAGNE , LA FOLLE JOURNÉE DE NANTES (NANTES, FR) | JANUARY 2012 |
| ORCHESTRE DE L'OPÉRA DE REIMS , LES FLÂNERIES MUSICALES DE REIMS | JUNE 2011 |
| ROYAL PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA , AIR STUDIOS RECORDING PROJECT (LONDON, UK) | MARCH 2011 |

ASSISTANT/COVER CONDUCTOR (SELECTED)

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| WINSPEAR OPERA HOUSE , DALLAS OPERA, GIULIANO CARELLA | FEBRUARY - MARCH 2019 |
| THÉÂTRE DE CHÂTELET , ORCHESTRE DE CHAMBRE DE PARIS, DAVID CHARLES ABEL | FEBRUARY - APRIL 2014 |
| THÉÂTRE DES CHAMPS-ÉLYSÉES , OPÉRA ROYAL DE VERSAILLES... OPERA FUOCO, DAVID STERN | 2005 - 2013 |
| ALDEBURGH FESTIVAL , BRITTEN-PEARS ORCHESTRA, BERNARD LABADIE | APRIL 2009 |
| THÉÂTRE DES CHAMPS-ÉLYSÉES , ENSEMBLE ORCHESTRAL DE PARIS, JOHN NELSON | NOVEMBER 2008 |

TEACHER

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| DALLAS OPERA , HART INSTITUTE , GUEST CONDUCTING TEACHER (DALLAS, TX) | OCTOBER 2019 |
| ORCHESTRE DES JEUNES DE BOURGOGNE-FRANCHE-COMTÉ , GUEST CONDUCTOR (ACADEMY, REGIONAL TOUR) | AUGUST 2019, 2018 |
| OPÉRA NATIONAL DE PARIS , ACADÉMIE , GUEST CONDUCTING TEACHER (PARIS, FR) | APRIL 2019 |
| NUIT BLANCHE À PARIS , GUEST CONDUCTOR (ORCHESTRA FLASH MOB AT LA CANOPÉE DES HALLES) (PARIS, FR) | OCTOBER 2018 |
| NATIONAL ACADEMY OF MUSIC "GHEORGHE DIMA" , REHEARSAL CONDUCTOR (CLUJ-NAPOCA, RO) | OCTOBER 2018 - |
| THÉÂTRE NATIONAL DE ST-QUENTIN-EN-YVELINES , CONDUCTING TEACHER (MONTIGNY-LE-BRETONNEUX, FR) | 2010 - 2013 |
| FRANCO-AMERICAN VOCAL ACADEMY , VOCAL MASTERCLASS ON FRENCH OPERA, CHANSON (PÉRIGUEUX, FR) | JULY 2012 |
| CONSERVATOIRE À RAYONNEMENT RÉGIONAL DE VERSAILLES , CONDUCTING MASTERCLASS (VERSAILLES, FR) | MAY 2012 |

JURY MEMBER

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| MAWOMA AWARDS , JURY CO-CHAIR (VIENNA, AT) | APRIL 2019 |
| PHILHARMONIE DE PARIS , TREMPIN JEUNES CHEFFES D'ORCHESTRE, JURY MEMBER (PARIS, FR) | NOVEMBER 2018 |
| ROMANIAN MOZART SOCIETY , 24TH ANNUAL VOCAL COMPETITION, JURY MEMBER (CLUJ-NAPOCA, RO) | OCTOBER 2017 |
| FONDATION DES ETATS-UNIS , HARRIET HALE WOOLLEY SCHOLARSHIP, JURY MEMBER (PARIS, FR) | 2004-13 |
| CONCOURS INTERNATIONAL DE PIANO ÎLE-DE-FRANCE , 14ÈME ÉD., JURY MEMBER (MAISONS-LAFFITTE, FR) | MAY 2012 |
| CONCOURS INTERNATIONAL DE PIANO FLAME , JURY MEMBER (PARIS, FR) | 2004-2012 |

MUSIC AND ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

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| TOA - TRANSYLVANIAN OPERA ACADEMY (CLUJ-NAPOCA, RO): FOUNDER AND ARTISTIC DIRECTOR | 2017-PRESENT |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• CREATED SOUND LEGAL AND FINANCIAL OPERATING SYSTEM IN ACCORDANCE WITH ROMANIAN LAW• CONCEIVED INNOVATIVE PROGRAM STRUCTURE INCORPORATING ARTISTIC EDUCATION, COMMUNITY OUTREACH, PROFESSIONAL SKILLS• NEGOTIATED INSTITUTIONAL PARTNERSHIPS (OPÉRA DE PARIS' ACADÉMIE, FRENCH CULTURAL MINISTRY, HUNGARIAN NATIONAL OPERA OF CLUJ ...)• FUNDRAISE LOCALLY, NATIONALLY, AND INTERNATIONALLY FROM GRASSROOTS AND INDIVIDUAL DONORS TO INSTITUTIONS IN THE PUBLIC AND PRIVATE SECTORS• DIRECT THE ARTISTIC SEASON (MASTERCLASSES, PROFESSIONAL WORKSHOPS, OUTREACH PROGRAMS, SUMMER ACADEMY) | |
| FONDATION DES ETATS-UNIS (PARIS, FR): CULTURAL DIRECTOR | 2004-2015 |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• DIRECTED THE CULTURAL SEASON (30-40 EVENTS PER SEASON, INCLUDING CONCERTS, EXHIBITS, CONFERENCES) | |

- MANAGED THE HARRIET HALE WOOLLEY SCHOLARSHIP
- REPRESENTED THE INSTITUTION AT VARIOUS FUNCTIONS (THE NATIONAL SENATE, THE AMERICAN EMBASSY...)
- BROKERED PARTNERSHIPS WITH CULTURAL AND EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS (IRCAM, HARVARD, JUILLIARD, MUSÉE DE GIVERNY...)

OPERA FUOCO (PARIS, FR): DIRECTOR OF EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITIES 2010 – 2013

- CREATED AWARD-WINNING OPERATIC EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMMING REACHING HUNDREDS OF CHILDREN THROUGHOUT THE YVELINES
- DIRECTED PEDAGOGICAL PROJECTS INVOLVING THE NATIONAL THEATER OF ST QUENTIN AND THE MINISTRY OF NATIONAL EDUCATION

KABRASS (PARIS, FR): MUSIC DIRECTOR 2010-11
ORCHESTRE 2021 (PARIS, FR): MUSIC DIRECTOR 2006-2009
COSP - CHOEUR ET ORCHESTRE DES SCIENCES PO (PARIS, FR): MUSIC DIRECTOR, ORCHESTRAL CONDUCTOR 2001-2006

GUEST SPEAKER (SELECTED)

WOMEN IN CLASSICAL MUSIC SYMPOSIUM, MODERATOR: "PRACTICAL NEXT STEPS" (DALLAS, TX) NOVEMBER 2019
THE DALLAS OPERA, FOUNDERS' LUNCHEON, FEATURED INTERVIEW WITH LEE CULLUM (DALLAS, TX) MARCH 2019
CREATIVE MORNINGS, GUEST SPEAKER: "TRADITIONS" (CLUJ-NAPOCA, RO) FEBRUARY 2019
CULTUREPRENEURS, GUEST SPEAKER: "ENTREPRENEURSHIP: OR, DIARY OF A MAN (Wo)MAN" (CLUJ, RO) NOVEMBER 2018
LA MÉDIATHÈQUE DE LA PHILHARMONIE DE PARIS, GUEST SPEAKER: "LE MÉTIER: CHEF D'ORCHESTRE" DECEMBER 2017
OPERA AMERICA 2017 CONFERENCE, SHOWCASED CONDUCTOR (DALLAS, TX) MAY 2017
AUDITORIUM MAXIMUM, "LEADERSHIP CONCERT", HOST (CLUJ-NAPOCA, RO) NOVEMBER 2016

EDUCATION

DIPLOMAS

ACADEMIA DE MUZICA "GHEORGHE DIMA", PhD ORCHESTRAL CONDUCTING "MAGNA CUM LAUDE" (CLUJ, RO) NOVEMBER 2019
FRENCH MINISTRY, CERTIFICAT D'APTITUDE, "DIRECTION D'ENSEMBLES ORCHESTRALES", EQUIVALENCY DIPLOMA MARCH 2013
BARD COLLEGE, MASTER OF FINE ARTS IN CONDUCTING (ANNANDALE-ON-HUDSON, NY) AUGUST 2004
ECOLE NORMALE DE MUSIQUE, « DIPLÔME DE DIRECTION D'ORCHESTRE » (PARIS, FR) JUNE 1999
LA SCHOLA CANTORUM, « DIPLÔME DE VIRTUOSITÉ », "MENTION TB À L'UNANIMITÉ, 1^{ÈRE} NOMMÉE" (PARIS, FR) JUNE 1999
OBERLIN CONSERVATORY OF MUSIC, BACHELOR OF MUSIC (OBERLIN, OH) DECEMBER 1997
THE JUILLIARD SCHOOL, PRE-COLLEGE DIVISION, DIPLOMA (NEW YORK, NY) MAY 1993
CONVENT OF THE SACRED HEART, DIPLOMA (NEW YORK, NY) MAY 1993

SUMMER FESTIVALS / WORKSHOPS

THE JUILLIARD SCHOOL, MARCUS INSTITUTE FOR VOCAL ARTS, HIWC FELLOW (NEW YORK, NY) MAY 2018
SAN FRANCISCO OPERA, ADLER FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM, HIWC FELLOW (SAN FRANCISCO, CA) MAY 2017
LORIN MAAZEL, "CONDUCTING APPRENTICE", CASTLETON FESTIVAL (CASTLETON, VA) JUNE – JULY 2009
NATIONAL ARTS CENTRE CONDUCTORS' PROGRAMME (OTTAWA, CAN) JUNE 2008
KURT MASUR MASTERCLASS, MANHATTAN SCHOOL OF MUSIC (NEW YORK, NY) (PASSIVE) MARCH 2008
VENDÔME INTERNATIONAL CONDUCTORS' ACADEMY (PARIS AND VENDÔME, FR) AUGUST 2007
CABRILLO FESTIVAL, CONDUCTORS GUILD WORKSHOP (CABRILLO, CA) AUGUST 2006
CONDUCTORS' INSTITUTE (BARD COLLEGE, NY) JULY 2003, 2004
SALZBURG MOZARTEUM SOMMERAKADEMIE (SALZBURG, AU) JULY 1994, 1995, 1999
VIENNA HOCHSCHULE FÜR MUSIK UND DARSTELLEND KUNST (VIENNA, AU) JULY 1992
TANGLEWOOD BUTI (LENNOX, MA) JUNE – JULY 1991, 1992

EXECUTIVE EDUCATION

HARVARD KENNEDY SCHOOL OF GOVERNMENT, "NONPROFIT FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT" (CAMBRIDGE, MA) FALL 2014
CITÉ DE LA MUSIQUE, « LA PROFESSIONNALISATION DU MUSICIEN » (PARIS, FR) WINTER 2008
CHRISTIE'S EDUCATION, « LE MÉCÉNAT CULTUREL EN FRANCE » (PARIS, FR) MAY-JUNE 2007

GRANTS AND AWARDS

"MA THÈSE EN 180 SECONDES", REGIONAL 1ST PLACE WINNER (CLUJ-NAPOCA, RO) FEBRUARY 2018
FRENCH MINISTRY OF CULTURE, OBSERVATION RESIDENCY, OPÉRA NATIONAL DE PARIS' ACADEMIE NOV 2017-JUNE 2018
THE DALLAS OPERA HART INSTITUTE FOR WOMEN CONDUCTORS (DALLAS, TX) 2016
FRENCH-AMERICAN FOUNDATION UNITED STATES, "YOUNG LEADERS" PROGRAM (NEW YORK, NY) 2014-16

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| TÉVA TÉLÉVISION , "FEMME DE L'ANNÉE" FINALIST (PARIS, FR) | 2013 |
| ADAMI , "TALENTS CHEFS D'ORCHESTRE" (PARIS, FR) | APRIL 2010 |
| GUSTAV MAHLER INTERNATIONAL CONDUCTING COMPETITION , FINALIST CANDIDATE (BAMBERG, DE) | FEBRUARY 2010 |
| BRITTEN-PEARS ORCHESTRA , CONDUCTING FELLOW (ALDEBURGH, UK) | 2008-09 |
| ROYAUMONT FOUNDATION , CONDUCTING FELLOW (ROYAUMONT, FR) | 2005 |
| HARRIET HALE WOOLLEY SCHOLARSHIP , GRANTEE (PARIS, FR) | SEPT 1998 – JUNE 1999 |

MEDIA AND PRESS

RADIO

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| WRR 101 , FEATURED INTERVIEW | NOVEMBER 2019 |
| EBS , "COMMON GROUNDS", F. PETEAN | 2019, 2018 |
| RADIO ROMANIA | JULY 2019 |
| RADIO FRANCE INTERNATIONALE , "WEBWATCH", S. ELZAS | JULY 2014 |
| FRANCE INTER , "LA DÉMOCRATIE FACE AU TERRORISME", P COLLIN, X MAUDUIT, D VARROD | SEPTEMBER 2011 |
| FRANCE INTER , "LES NOTES DE LA SEMAINE", VALLI | JANUARY 2011 |
| FRANCE CULTURE , "LA VIGNETTE", A LAVIGNE | DECEMBER 2010 |
| RADIO FRANCE INTERNATIONALE , "EN SOL MAJEUR", Y CHOUAKI | NOVEMBER 2010 |

NEWSPAPER / MAGAZINE

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| ABCNEWS.GO.COM , "DALLAS OPERA'S HART INSTITUTE ..." | NOVEMBER 2019 |
| THEATER JONES , "WOMEN IN CHARGE" | NOVEMBER 2019 |
| OPERA WIRE , "Q AND A INTERVIEW..." | OCTOBER 2019 |
| FACIA , "TOA SUMMER ACADEMY" | JULY 2019 |
| POINT DE VUE , "STARS ACADEMIE: 350 ANS DE L'OPÉRA DE PARIS" | MAY 2019 |
| NOUVEL OBS , "DEVANT L'ORCHESTRE, JE NE PENSE PAS 'JE SUIS UNE FEMME'" | NOVEMBER 2018 |
| ADEVARUL , "CUM ÎNCEARCA O ARTISTA AMERICANA SA-I AJUTE PE MUZICIENII DIN ROMÂNIA ..." | NOVEMBER 2018 |
| SINTEZA , EDITION #56 | OCTOBER 2018 |
| VOSGES MATIN , "QUESTIONS À ELIZABETH ASKREN" | JANUARY 2018 |
| FRANCE MUSIQUE , « FEMMES CHEFS D'ORCHESTRE : UNE ÉVOLUTION À PETITS PAS » | MARCH 2016 |
| LE PARISIEN MAGAZINE , « DES CHEFS D'ORCHESTRE PAS TRÈS CLASSIQUES » | JANUARY 2015 |
| FORUM D'AVIGNON , « LES RAISONS D'ESPÉRER » | DECEMBER 2012 |
| VINCENNES INFO , PORTRAIT: « SOUS LE CHARME ET LA BAGUETTE D'ELIZABETH ASKREN » | NOVEMBER 2010 |
| LA CROIX , « PAS DE BAGUETTE MAGIQUE POUR DES FEMMES CHEFS D'ORCHESTRE » | OCTOBER 2010 |

FILM / TV

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| WFAA (DALLAS REGIONAL TELEVISION), FEATURED INTERVIEW | NOVEMBER 2019 |
| TVR CLUJ (REGIONAL ROMANIAN TELEVISION), FEATURED INTERVIEW | JULY 2019 |
| TVR (NATIONAL ROMANIAN TELEVISION), REGAL DE OPERA CONCERT | OCTOBER 2017 |
| PBS NEWSHOUR , "BRINGING WOMEN CONDUCTORS TO THE FRONT OF THE ORCHESTRA" | JANUARY 2017 |
| TV VENDÉE (REGIONAL FRENCH TELEVISION), CLIPS FROM THE FESTIVAL <i>LA FOLLE JOURNÉE</i> | 2012 |
| DER TAKTSTOCK , BY MICHAEL WENDE (GERMAN DOCUMENTARY), PARTICIPATION AND INTERVIEWS | 2010 |
| TVO (GERMAN TELEVISION), FEATURED INTERVIEW | 2010 |

LANGUAGES

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|---------------------|--------------------|
| BILINGUAL: | ENGLISH AND FRENCH |
| FLUENT: | ROMANIAN |
| LEVEL A 1.2: | GERMAN |
| NOTIONS: | ITALIAN |

ELIZABETH ASKREN
CONDUCTOR

RECENT CRITICAL ACCLAIM

Romanian Mozart Society's 29th Annual Mozart Festival Gala Concert – Transylvanian State Philharmonic and Choir

"The quality of the guest artists – the pianist Christophe Alvarez, the conductor Elizabeth Askren . . . ensured success. . . It is the kind of concert that will remain in the affective memory of those present, an advised and knowledgeable public. . . Appearing for the first time on the podium of the Orchestra and Choir of the Cluj Philharmonic, Elizabeth Askren brought the hall to its feet. Respect for the stylistic details of the three Mozartian works. . . The conductor's attention was directed to each section of the orchestra, to the relationship between the orchestra and the choir, attention accorded to details, everything highlighting not only the emotional depth of the work, but also the melodic richness of the Mass. . . In the personal construction of the work, Elizabeth Askren imposed through assurance and genuineness, with precise gestures, graceful assets which captured the attention of all those present, creating an atmosphere specific to unforgettable evenings."

- Faclia (Romanian Nat'l Newspaper)

"...Her in-depth artistry, purposeful, determined, precise conducting shows that, like her conducting, she is careful and thorough in her (musical) research."

- Szabadsag (Hungarian-language press)

Orchestre Colonne Laureats' concert in the Paris' Salle Pleyel, France's ADAMI "Young Conductors" Prize

"...Last laureate. A tall and beautiful young woman with azure blue eyes, with a royal stance and a confident stride. ... Elisabeth Askren (sic) will enchant the public. Energetic and precise gestures, a confidence that seduces irresistibly. She hypnotizes the entire hall. A revelation and the discovery of the Classic Symphony of Prokofiev. (fifth miracle?!) The symphony stops, thunder of applause, the hall exalts. If the jury chose 3 winners, the public's choice, without any doubt, is she."

- Paris.fr

Closing Concert, Romanian Mozart Society's 26th Annual Mozart Festival – Cluj-Napoca Hungarian State Opera

"Elizabeth Askren...directed the concert as both conductor and narrator in a fine, attentive, and expressive manner..."

- Cronica Muzicala On-line

Mozart Festival Cluj-Napoca

"...Her in-depth artistry, purposeful, determined, precise conducting shows that, like her conducting, she is careful and thorough in her (musical) research."

-Szabadsag