

Sinead Hayes - A Circuitous Path...

Orchestral conductor Sinead Hayes brings a unique creative perspective to conducting symphonic and opera repertoire, forged from a decade of conducting the music of living composers in Ireland and further afield. A natural storyteller, she is passionate about sharing the magic of orchestral music with audiences from every walk of life.

But Sinead's path to the podium has been unorthodox, to say the least!

Awarded numerous scholarships and prizes as a young violinist and pianist, a career path in music was financially impossible, so Sinead pursued studies in structural engineering, always intending to return to music. Winning the National University of Ireland Bursary in engineering enabled her studies in Imperial College London, where she was also funded by the Steel Construction Institute. Moving to London, Sinead brought her violin and started playing in as many orchestras as she could!

It was while working as an engineer in Clerkenwell, London that she spotted an advert for an evening course in Orchestral Conducting in Morley College. Her orchestral adventures had sparked her curiosity about the person (usually a man!) standing on the podium. She enrolled!

On a crisp September afternoon, in Morley College London, Sinead stood in front of an orchestra for the first time, and a switch flicked. Her life path was changed forever that day!

Over the following months and years, she developed her skills as a conductor undertaking her music degree in violin and composition and winning a place on the world renowned conducting masters programme in the Royal College of Music Manchester.

Her work has taken her all over Europe where she has worked in masterclass with world renowned conducting pedagogues and orchestras. She has built a career in Ireland and the UK conducting opera, contemporary and orchestral music with all the Irish professional orchestras and opera companies, most recently the Ulster Orchestra, Belfast and the Royal Liverpool Philharmonic Orchestra. As a recent alumna of the Royal Philharmonic Society's conductor's programme, her journey and development continues.

Sinead is a passionate advocate for life long learning and her mission is to bring the joy and depth of the orchestral world and its music to everyone, through her performances and her blog *The Creative Conductor*.