

Dr. Justin Bischof – Biography



Lauded as “impressive... spontaneous... subtle...” by *The New York Times*, **Justin Bischof** is one of the most eclectic artists and leaders of his generation. He is an internationally acclaimed orchestral & opera conductor as well as concert/liturgical organist, pianist and improviser. He has performed in some of the world’s great venues including New York’s Carnegie Hall, Alice Tully Lincoln Center, Rose Theatre Lincoln Center, Tonhalle of Zurich, Eli Broad Theatre of Los Angeles, Royal Opera House Oman, St. Paul’s Cathedral London, Notre Dame Paris, and Cologne Cathedral. He has collaborated with some of the world’s most prominent artists including Joshua Bell, Philippe Entremont, Tan Dun and Roberta Peters. As an orchestral conductor, he has worked with numerous ensembles including National Arts Center Orchestra, The Ensemble Orchestral de Paris, Vancouver Symphony, and the Royal Symphony of Oman. He is the Founder & Artistic Director of MOO Modus Operandi Orchestra of New York City which is comprised of 65 of New York’s finest orchestral musicians.



Dr. Bischof has a long and distinguished history of liturgical leadership including several music directorships in historically prominent Episcopal parishes. He served as Associate Director of Music at 5th Avenue’s Church of the Heavenly Rest while still a graduate student during which time he oversaw an extensive and growing professional music program including a 16-voice professional choir weekly, several Youth Choirs, the annual Christmas Pageant with 100 children, and established the Carnegie Hill Concert Series in residence at this New York City Cardinal Episcopal parish. He devoted two years coordinating the restoration of their 140-rank organ following a devastating fire. He then served as Director of Music at the 19th century Anglo Catholic Church of the Resurrection East 74th Street where he established the 10-voice professional Schola which presented a full Renaissance mass weekly. For 11 years, he was Director of Music & Organist at the 1851 Church of St James the Less in Scarsdale. During his



distinguished tenure, he initiated a much-needed complete overhaul and expansion of the music program which included growing the Parish Choir to 16 voices with 4 section leaders while raising the musical bar considerably and founding three Youth Choirs ages 7-18. Maestro Bischof was the catalyst that inspired the parish to replace their failing organ with a glorious world class \$2,000,000 4 manual 61 rank organ by Klais Orgelbau of Bonn Germany.

The concept of music playing a transformative outreach role in the world plays an important role in Maestro Bischof's career. He co-founded, with Dorothy E. Yewer, an Annual Children's Benefit for 10 years in Scarsdale to help at-risk children from Mount Vernon attend a life-altering summer camp which raised over \$1,000,000 and helped over 800 children. The final four concerts took place at SUNY Purchase Recital Hall with the 10th Anniversary Gala Concert (2017) featuring soloists from the Metropolitan Opera in Beethoven's *Symphony No. 9*.

Described as "a master virtuoso" by *The Frankfurt News*, and "virtuosic" by the *Los Angeles Times*, he is one of the profession's most respected concert organists and has concertized extensively globally. He was awarded the First Prize at the 2000 AGO Organ Improvisation Competition and is a leading proponent of the craft with his all-improvisation performances which have been met with critical acclaim throughout the world. A regular guest organist at the Royal Opera House on their Klais orgel in Muscat Oman, he has presented several Middle East premieres of important organ concerti including Samuel Barber's *Toccata Festiva* for Organ & Orchestra, and Malcolm Arnold's *Concerto for Organ and Orchestra*. Dr. Bischof served as professor for many years at the esteemed Manhattan School of Music as well as Barnard College Columbia University and is sought after as a guest clinician for master classes internationally. For a more detailed bio please visit: www.justinbischof.com.

