



Photo: Beth Clarence

Benjamin Ellin CONDUCTOR/COMPOSER

Introductory biography and brief CV

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D.O.B: 7th January 1980, Bolton, UK
Nationality: British
Languages: English, French, Russian, German

"Benjamin Ellin is a fine and serious musician. I have no hesitation in recommending him."

Sir Colin Davis, CH

"A sonic explosion of intensity and depth that only the complex and difficult German composer could create and which Benjamin Ellin managed to capture to the fullest."

Tudor Costin Sicomas, 'Bucharest Old and New', Romanian Athenaeum

"Then came the Korngold. Ellin clearly loves this music, and his players, equally clearly, were ready to follow where he led."

Richard Bratby, The Spectator

"Melodically appealing, harmonically adventurous, rhythmically exciting and brilliantly orchestrated. Probably my disc of the year so far and it will be a hard one to beat."

Paul RW Jackson, British Music Society

"...Ellin's is a musical voice well worth getting acquainted with..."

Richard Whitehouse, Gramophone Magazine

BENJAMIN ELLIN (Full Biography): Award-winning and critically acclaimed British conductor and composer Benjamin Ellin is currently co-founder and Musical Director of De Mowbray Music and the De Mowbray Music Festival, Music Director of the Thursford Christmas Spectacular, co-founder, conductor and composer of the contemporary-fusion ensemble Tafahum, Principal Conductor of the Slaithwaite Philharmonic Orchestra and President of Pembroke Academy of Music, London. Benjamin is also a founding trustee of the Evgeny Svetlanov Charitable Trust and Lecturer in Conducting at the Leeds Conservatoire.

Over two decades Benjamin has developed an international reputation for being able to unite groups, organisations and audiences across a wide-range of projects as well as being fearless in his commitment and belief to bold programming, inclusivity and collaborative projects. His belief in the positive and unifying power of music and the arts is reflected by the wide-ranging projects of which he is currently a major figurehead, and his past achievements are equalled by a tireless commitment as a guest artist and as a Music Director. This can be seen by his ongoing work in North Yorkshire through the De Mowbray Music Festival in Thirsk, the contemporary-fusion ensemble Tafahum, opera festivals and performances across the UK including Focus Opera (2007 - 2015), a wide commitment to outreach and development work in settings from projects in prisons and refugee camps to university departments as well as curating projects and

collaborations with leading ensembles across the globe. From 2006-2010 Benjamin was also Music Director of Pembroke Academy of Music in London, which provides vital musical education and opportunities to the young members of the Walworth community.

His ability to successfully work with musicians from across the musical spectrum has led to a variety of bespoke projects, most recently with John Lees' Barclay James Harvest and Slaithwaite Philharmonic, the Orchestra of Opera North, the Philharmonia Orchestra, London Philharmonic Orchestra, Jena Philharmonic, Orchestre de Picardie, English Chamber Orchestra, BBC Scottish Symphony Orchestra, BBC National Orchestra of Wales, Orchestre National de Lille, Shanghai Opera House Orchestra, Gunma Symphony Orchestra (Japan), St Petersburg Symphony and the Luxembourg Philharmonic amongst others.

As a composer his output is diverse and far-reaching. From solo concert works to symphonies, film scores to cross-arts commissions, Benjamin's music has been performed and broadcast all over the world; in the concert hall, theatre and for the screen. In 2022 Benjamin was commissioned by the Evgeny Svetlanov Conducting Competition to compose a symphony to commemorate the 20th anniversary of the passing of Svetlanov himself. Ellin's Symphony No. 1 was premiered under Dmitri Jurowski in 2022 in Moscow to great acclaim while his Sinfonia No. 1 was performed at the Royal Opera House in London with the Royal Ballet School in 2017 as part of their Summer Showcase. Benjamin's Violin Sonata has already been commercially recorded and released twice by different artists and his Violin Concerto *MIYABI* was premiered by the Philharmonia Orchestra in London. Benjamin has received several commissions for works inspired by the history and culture of First Nation communities of Alberta, with whom he enjoys a close relationship, by long-time collaborator and esteemed violist Rivka Golani.

In 2020 Benjamin received the first British commission for a bass trombone concerto from Opera North. 'Gresley' was subsequently premiered by bass trombonist Christian Jones and Opera North in October 2021 and formed part of a major album release alongside other major works for trombone by Benjamin in 2023. The album, *Windows*, which features soloists Joseph Alessi, Blair Sinclair and Christian Jones was reviewed as *"Melodically appealing, harmonically adventurous, rhythmically exciting and brilliantly orchestrated. Probably my disc of the year so far and it will be a hard one to beat."* Paul RW Jackson, *British Music Society*.

Additional recent highlights have included his oratorio, ONE BEFORE ZERO, commissioned and premiered by the Orchestre de Picardie in 2016, as part of the centenary commemorations for the Battle of the Somme. Following its World Premiere in France it has also been performed in Slovakia and Germany under Benjamin's direction and in October 2025 will receive its UK Premiere by Chetham's School of Music with Benjamin as conductor: *"...In addition to the two soloists and the boys' choir, it was above all the composer who made the great tension of his oratorio audible on the podium of the Jena Philharmonic Orchestra and allowed everyone involved to play with such intensity that the tension was transmitted to the audience. Benjamin Ellin's oratorio is able to move the hearts of the listeners and keep alive the memory of the traumatic conditions of the war."* (Dietmar Ebert. 11/18, Jena).

A multiple award winner, Benjamin was a laureate and was awarded the Public Prize from the inaugural Evgeny Svetlanov International Conducting Competition in 2007. In September 2009 Benjamin was awarded the Barlow Endowment Prize for composition, becoming only the second British composer in twenty-five years to be awarded the prize. The New York Philharmonic's Principal Trombonist, Joseph Alessi, premiered his subsequent commission for a trombone concerto in April 2012 in the USA. Benjamin's debut composition CD, *Three States at Play*, was released in Spring 2012 to critical acclaim. Tafahum's debut album 'Osmosis', featuring almost all Benjamin's own compositions, was released to critical acclaim in April 2016; *"...beguilingly scored and intelligently structured...the music constantly evolves. Magical."* (Graham Rickson, *The Arts Desk*, April 2016)

CURRENT AND PREVIOUS EMPLOYMENT:		
Dates	Employer	Job Title and brief description of core duties:
2025 -	Leeds Conservatoire	Lecturer in Classical Conducting: <i>Planning and delivering lectures. Assessing students progress and development. Curating external collaborations with partner organisations.</i>
2021 -	De Mowbray Music Festival www.demowbraymusic.com	Music Director: <i>Co-founder. Taking the lead on all programming for the festival. Helping with strategic development of festival. Aiding in fundraising and development areas alongside marketing, publicity and outreach. Conducting and composing.</i>
2020 -	De Mowbray Music www.demowbraymusic.com	Music Director: <i>Co-founder. Curating outreach and community projects across the Hambleton area of North Yorkshire. Programming and producing specific professional musical events throughout the year across many styles for the community. Conducting and composing.</i>
2009 -	Thursford Christmas Spectacular, Norfolk, NR21 0AS	Music Director: <i>Auditioning performers. Rehearsing all aspects of show. Liaising with all departments. Casting and re-casting show. Performing. Managing the Music Department and all musical elements of the show.</i>
2008 -	Slaithwaite Philharmonic Orchestra, 10 Scape View, Huddersfield, HD7 4DH	Music Director: <i>Programming. Rehearsing the orchestra. Creating rehearsal schedules. Curating and managing tours (eg, China, France, Isle of Man). Curating and managing collaborations such as with opera, dance and video and other ensembles. Raising money for projects where needed. Recruiting soloists. Delivering pre-concert talks. Presenting concerts from the stage.</i>
2007 - 2015	Focus Opera	Music Director: <i>Co-founder. Programming, auditioning, casting, fundraising, rehearsing and conducting. Composed new works and rearranged standard repertoire where needed for smaller venues.</i>
2006 - 2010	Pembroke House, Tatum Street, London, SE17 1QR	Director of Pembroke Music Academy: <i>Recruitment of tutors. Formulated curriculum. Raised core funding for entire project. Dealt with safeguarding issues where necessary. Organised all external and internal concerts, including tours to Brussels and Cambridge. Communication with parents, tutors, students, committee and Pembroke College Cambridge committee led by Sir Richard Dearlove.</i>
2003 - 2006	European Union Youth Orchestra, Corso della Giovecca, 38, 44121 Ferrara (FE), Italy	Stage Manager: <i>Liaising with venues across Europe and South America. Working with international artists such as Bernard Haitink and Vladimir Ashkenazy. Dealing with customs and border control. Manual work.</i>
1999 - 2006	National Youth Orchestra of Great Britain, 10 Great Turnstile London WC1V 7JU	Orchestral Manager and Composer Course Conductor: <i>Ensuring all logistics and rehearsals/concerts ran smoothly. Working closely with composition professor Paul Patterson. Conducting the National Youth Orchestra Sinfonietta who performed new works by the NYO composers, preceding each orchestral concert. Conducting more bespoke contemporary events at venues such as Tate Modern.</i>

AWARDS & HONOURS

- 2011 Honoured by Her Majesty, Queen Elizabeth II for his 'outstanding contribution to the performing arts'.
- 2009 Winner of Barlow Endowment Composition Prize.
- 2007 Winner of First Prize & Public Prize, Evgeny Svetlanov Conducting Competition.
- 2007 First classical composer to be signed to The Prince's Trust Music Publishing.
- 2007 Featured in BBC Music Magazine 'Maestro edition' as a "Rising Star."

EDUCATION & TRAINING

- 2002 – 2013 Private studies with Sir Colin Davis.
- 2006 Studies with Gianandrea Noseda at Settimane Musicali di Stresa, Italy.
- 2003 International School for Conductors, St Petersburg.
- 1998 – 2002 Guildhall School of Music & Drama. BA (2:1) (Composition Professor; John Woolrich).
- 1996 – 1998 Chetham's School of Music.

TEACHING & LECTURING EXPERIENCE

Pembroke Academy of Music, UK	Director of Music (now President). Taught all aspects of music, along with the management of the Academy.
Brigham Young University, USA	Lectures on composition and individual lessons with students.
Rose Bruford College, UK	Lecturing on various aspects of film and theatrical music and relationship between composer and director.
Royal Academy of Music, UK	Classes in composition and Musical Awareness, Junior Department.
Guildhall School of Music and Drama, UK	Classes in composition and Musical Awareness, Junior Department.
National Youth Orchestra Composers' Ensemble UK	Conducting the ensemble and coaching students.
Chetham's School of Music, UK	Classes, workshops and directing performances with students.
Hallé Orchestra, UK	Pre-concert talks.
Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra, UK	Pre-concert talks.
Nottingham Royal Concert Hall, UK	Pre-concert talks.
Slaithwaite Philharmonic Orchestra, UK	Pre-concert talks.