



PHOTO: KAROLLIINA PIIRKKANEN

WIND ORCHESTRA CONDUCTING

Bachelor of Music: 3 years **Master of Music: 2.5 years**
Lecturer *Petri Komulainen* (2016–2021)

The wind band conducting class conducts a band formed by students of the Sibelius Academy on a weekly basis. The class visits and performs concerts with professional and established bands in Finland for an average of five weeks per year. During their studies, students work on a wide musical repertoire and participate in masterclasses with well-known teachers such as **Morten Wensberg**, **Sami Ruusuvuori** and **Jukka Iisakkila**, among others. The wind band conducting class has a strong partnership with the Helsinki Police Band: through regular joint projects students cover an extensive range of works. The class regularly co-operates with other departments at the Academy, such as the department of vocal music. Joint projects with the choral and orchestral conducting classes are also an integral part of wind band conducting studies.

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SIBELIUS ACADEMY

CONDUCTING STUDIES AT THE SIBELIUS ACADEMY

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PHOTO: JANI ROPPOLA



PHOTO: WILMA HURSKAINEN

Do you dream of becoming a conductor? Studying at the Sibelius Academy will give you the right tools to become a highly qualified professional. Based in the newly built Helsinki Music Centre, our conducting classes offer the opportunity to work with different ensembles, attend the rehearsals of our resident orchestras and go to masterclasses given by well-known artists, as well as offering many performance opportunities. All these features together with a tailored course structure and fantastic infrastructure make these programmes some of the most appealing in Europe.

The Sibelius Academy offers three different major subjects in conducting: orchestral conducting, choral conducting and wind orchestra conducting.

ORCHESTRAL CONDUCTING

Bachelor of Music: 3 years **Master of Music:** 2.5 years
Professors *Atso Almila* (2013–2019) and *Sakari Oramo* (2020–2025)

Our world-famous orchestral conducting class gives you the chance to learn with an orchestra twice a week for at least 10 weeks per semester. Through this unique opportunity, students learn the know-how of the profession from the very beginning of their studies. In addition, the conducting department organises several opera workshops a year in co-operation with the vocal music and opera departments.

The orchestral conducting class is privileged to have close partnerships with both the Finnish Radio Symphony Orchestra and the Helsinki Philharmonic Orchestra, allowing students to conduct these world-class ensembles twice a year. All students are allowed to follow orchestra rehearsals, but both orchestras also offer one assistant position a year, giving that student the opportunity to follow their work more closely.

We also organise several masterclasses a year. In the past, the class has hosted conductors like **Roger Norrington**, **Mikko Franck**,

Herbert Blomstedt, **Hannu Lintu**, **Susanna Mälkki** and **Johannes Schlaefli** among many others.

CHORAL CONDUCTING

Bachelor of Music: 3 years **Master of Music:** 2.5 years
Professor *Nils Schweckendiek* (2014–2019)

Our choral conducting class covers an extensive range of literature, from early music to contemporary repertoire and from a cappella to opera. The students work with the Sibelius Academy Vocal Ensemble (an ensemble of 16 professional singers) for not less than 10 weeks a semester, 2 sessions per week, and sing alongside the professionals when not conducting. Students complement their studies by singing in choral projects and attending seminars on a wide variety of topics related to vocal music. There is a minimum of one masterclass per year: teachers in recent years have included top names like **Paul Hillier**, **Andrew Parrott** and **Daniel Reuss**.

There are at least two student concerts per year, at which all students will get to conduct the Vocal Ensemble. Students are also given the opportunity to take part in opera productions organised by the opera department. Regular co-operation with the orchestral conducting class and the wind band conducting class provides students with the opportunity to work with larger ensembles.

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