

Pierre Simard *conductor*

This is Pierre Simard's second season as Assistant Conductor of the Vancouver Symphony Orchestra. He is also Artistic Director of both the Vancouver Island Symphony (BC) and the Orchestre Symphonique de Drummondville (QC). Having served as Associate Conductor with the Calgary Philharmonic Orchestra, he also performs as guest conductor with major orchestras in Milwaukee, Toronto, Ottawa (National Arts Centre), Victoria, Hamilton, Okanagan, Hot Springs (AR), Trois-Rivières, Québec's Les Violons du Roy and Montreal's Orchestre Métropolitain. Recipient of many honours, Pierre Simard was awarded the Canada Council's Jean-Marie Beaudet Award in Conducting, recognizing his work on a national scale. He is also grantee of the Québec Music Council, the Québec Arts Council and the Montreal Mayor's Foundation.

A passionate defender of orchestral repertoire, Pierre Simard devotes himself to reinventing the concert form, combining his fresh ideas, fantasy and humour with music. His outstanding creativity and engagement with youth audiences inspire him to write and perform original symphonic shows, featured all across Canada. Holder of a Master's Degree in Conducting from the Peabody Institute and five Conservatory Prizes from the Conservatoire de musique de Montréal, Pierre Simard studied with Raffi Armenian, Frederik Prausnitz, JoAnn Falletta and Marin Alsop.

The VSO's Assistant Conductor position is made possible with the support of the Canada Council for the Arts.