



Luis Serrano Alarcón

Born in Valencia in 1972, **Luis Serrano Alarcón** is a Spanish composer and conductor with a major international profile. His works have been performed in more than 30 countries, and he has been invited to conduct in Spain, Italy, Singapore, the USA, Colombia, Japan, Mexico, and Hong Kong. He has received commissions from important national and international entities and ensembles, including the Valencian Institute of Music, the Vila d'Altea International Band Contest, the Valencia International Music Band Contest, CIM La Armónica de Buñol, University of Saint Thomas (Minnesota, USA), Philharmonic Winds (Singapore), Vanderbilt University (USA), University of Kentucky (USA), University of New Mexico (USA), Hong Kong Band Directors Association, and the College Band Directors National Association (USA), among others.

In 2012, the Southeastern Conference Band Directors Association, formed by a consortium of 14 US universities, commissioned him to compose his *Symphony for Wind Orchestra*, premiered in October 2013; in 2017, he wrote his *Second Symphony*, commissioned by the University of Saint Thomas, which was premiered in May of that same year. Between December 2024 and May 2025, he carried out an international tour of premieres for his *Third Symphony "Jalupe"* dedicated to the memory of his brother Fernando, which led him to conduct the work in Japan, Spain, the USA, and Colombia with great success. Among his latest projects is a commission from a consortium of 16 North American universities for the composition of his *Second Book of Spanish Dances*.

He has twice won First Prize at the Corciano International Composition Competition for Band (Italy): in 2006 with the work *Preludio y Danza del Alba*, for brass quintet and symphonic band, and in 2009 with *La Dama Centinela*. In 2010, he received the Euterpe Award from the Federation of Musical Societies of the Valencian Community in the category of Best Symphonic Music Composition for this same work. In 2011, his work *Duende* won the Award for Best Classical Music Edition at the Premios de la Música, organized annually by the Academy of Musical Arts and Sciences, which are the most prestigious awards in the field of music in Spain.

Between 2011 and 2013, Luis Serrano Alarcón was a member of the WASBE Board of Directors (World Association for Symphonic Bands and Ensembles). His works were published by Piles Editorial de Música from 2004 to 2015, the year in which he launched his own publishing project under the Alarcon Music label.

He is currently the conductor of the Symphonic Band of the Ateneo Musical del Puerto de Valencia and a professor at the Conservatorio Superior de Música de Valencia.

alarconmusic.com



Dr. L. Brett Baker

Dr. L. Brett Baker is internationally recognised as an experienced and respected adjudicator in the brass band and solo performance world. With decades of involvement at the highest levels of performance, education, and contesting, he brings exceptional musical insight, fairness, and clarity to the adjudication process.

Brett is Chair of the Association of Brass Band Adjudicators and is regularly invited to judge major national and international events. His adjudicating experience includes judging at all the British regional area qualifiers, The Spring Festival of the British Open Brass Band Championships, the Scottish Open, Butlins Mineworkers Festival, and numerous Association contests. Internationally, he has adjudicated at the Swiss, Dutch, Lithuanian, New Zealand, and Australian National Finals, as well as the National Solo Championships of Switzerland and events for the International Trombone Association in the USA and France.

His adjudication is informed by a distinguished performing and conducting career. Brett was principal trombone of the Black Dyke Band for 24 years and is currently solo trombone of the Cory Band. As a conductor, he has achieved contest success with several bands and has appeared with leading championship and youth ensembles across the UK and Europe. He has also conducted at prestigious events including the National Finals of Great Britain at the Royal Albert Hall.

An educator of international standing, Brett has held senior academic roles at the University of Salford and worked extensively with national and international youth ensembles. His deep commitment to musical development, new repertoire, and technical excellence ensures adjudication that is musically rigorous, constructive, and supportive of performers at all levels.

In 2020, Brett received the International Trombone Association President's Award for solo performance and service to the profession, further underlining his authority and contribution to the brass world.

Professor David King describes him as “a household name in the world of brass... for the commitment and focus he has given to his craft.”



David Childs

Described by The Observer as 'a great ambassador for the euphonium, possessing an astonishing technique and an engaging stage presence', **David Childs** is regarded as one of the finest brass musicians of his generation, touring extensively throughout Asia, continental Europe, and North America.

He has appeared as soloist with the BBC, Manchester and RTÉ Concert orchestras, BBC National Orchestra of Wales, BBC Philharmonic Orchestra, Philharmonie Baden-Baden, Royal Liverpool Philharmonic Orchestra, Royal Philharmonic Orchestra, Sinfonia Cymru, Welsh National Opera, Vancouver Symphony Orchestra, Orchestra da Camera Fiorentina, Tallinn Chamber Orchestra, Thailand Philharmonic and many of the finest brass bands and military bands in both the UK and USA. He has made solo appearances at the Singapore International Festival, Harrogate International Festival, Cheltenham Festival, Melbourne International Festival, BBC Proms and New York Festival, given solo recitals at the Wigmore Hall, Purcell Room and Bridgewater Hall, and performed concertos at the Concertgebouw, Royal Albert Hall, Queen Elizabeth Hall, Royal Festival Hall, Symphony Hall, Lincoln Center and Carnegie Hall New York.

A keen advocate of new music, Childs has premiered sixteen concertos for euphonium including a Royal Albert Hall BBC Proms broadcast of Alun Hoddinott's, *Sunne Rising - The King Will Ride*, a Carnegie Hall US première of Sir Karl Jenkins' *Concerto for Euphonium & Orchestra*, a UK premiere of Christian Lindberg's *Concerto for Euphonium & Orchestra* directed by the composer and a Welsh Proms world première of Paul Mealer's *Concerto for Euphonium & Orchestra*. In 2022 he gave the first public performance of a new setting for euphonium of Ralph Vaughan Williams' *Concerto for Tuba* at the Last Night of the Welsh Proms with the orchestra of the Welsh National Opera and, in January 2026, he gave the US première of Sir James MacMillan's *Euphonium Concerto* with the Dallas Symphony Orchestra.

During his career as a euphonium soloist, Childs has received many awards in recognition of his achievements, including: Arts Council Wales Creative Wales Award; Worshipful Company of Musicians Silver Medal Award and Iles Award; Welsh Music Guild's Leo Abse & Cohen Award; Harry Mortimer Trust Award; RNCM Principal's Gold Medal Award; Making Music's Dorothy Green Award; Musicians Benevolent's Sir Charles Leggett Award; Countess of Munster Star Award, and many more. He has also received several accolades as a recording artist, including two ITEA Excellence in Recording Awards, and can be heard on several labels including EMI, Deutsche Gramophone, Chandos, Naxos, Doyen and World of Sound.

A proud product of the British brass band movement, Childs is a former member of several ensembles including the National Youth Brass Band of Great Britain, National Youth Brass Band of Wales, Brighouse and Rastrick, and Cory Band with whom he was Principal Euphonium for ten years under the baton of his father, Robert Childs.

Childs is now a Distinguished Research Professor of Euphonium at the University of North Texas and holds positions as Visiting Professor at Tokyo's Senzoku Gakuen College of Music and International Visiting Tutor at the Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama, where he was made a fellow in 2024. He is a founding member of Eminence Brass chamber ensemble and as a Buffet Crampon Besson Artist he continues to showcase the euphonium as a serious solo voice within the world of classical music.

davechilds.com



Anne Crookston

Conductor | Adjudicator | Educator

Born in Glasgow, **Anne Crookston** has built a distinguished career in music spanning over 40 years, with a record of achievement across choirs, orchestras, wind bands, and especially brass bands, where she is recognised internationally as both conductor and adjudicator.

Anne began her musical studies on tenor horn before switching to baritone at 14, alongside developing as an oboist—an instrument she later studied at the University of Glasgow. While completing her BMus (Hons), she also conducted the University Brass Ensemble, Wind Band, and Orchestra, laying the foundations of her conducting career.

Her brass band career began with Newmains Band in Lanarkshire, before she joined CWS (Glasgow) in 1986. With CWS she achieved historic success when the band became the first Scottish ensemble to win the National Brass Band Championship at the Royal Albert Hall (1990). In 1992, Anne moved to Whitburn Band, where she served as solo baritone until 2010.

Transitioning to conducting, Anne held posts with Kingdom Brass and Whitburn Band (appointed Musical Director in 2011), later directing West Lothian Schools Brass Band (2013) and Bathgate Band (2014). Since January 2021 she has been Musical Director of Newtongrange Silver Band, leading the band into the Championship Section of Scottish banding.

A respected and sought-after adjudicator, Anne has judged major contests across the UK, Europe, and North America, including the European Youth Brass Band Championships, Siddis Brass (Norway), and national events in Denmark, Germany, the Netherlands, Sweden, and the USA. In 2024, in an historic milestone, she became the first woman to adjudicate the British Open Brass Band Championship, returning to the adjudication team in 2025.

Alongside her musical career, Anne is Depute Headteacher at St Margaret's Academy, Livingston, where she plays a key role in educational leadership and policy. She is also an External Examiner for the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland's PGDE Music programme and holds a Master's degree in Education.



Ueli Kipfer

Ueli Kipfer, geboren 1974 in Langnau im Emmental, lebt heute in Affoltern im Emmental. Er studierte Musik an der Hochschule für Musik und Theater Bern mit den Hauptfächern Euphonium und Dirigieren, spezialisierte sich später in Italien und Grossbritannien und erwarb 2013 den MAS in Musik-Management an der HKB. 2025 folgte der MBA Digitale Transformation am IKF in Luzern.

Als Euphonium-Solist gewann er zahlreiche Preise, darunter 2001 den Titel „Best Euphonium Player“ bei den European Brass Solo Championships. Er spielte und dirigierte in renommierten Brass Bands und Blasorchester und ist bis heute als Dirigent, Juror, Dozent und Dirigentenausbildner aktiv.

Seit 2020 leitet er die Musikschule Oberemmental, wo er die musikalische Bildung strategisch, organisatorisch und künstlerisch mitgestaltet. In den letzten Jahren vertiefte er sich zudem im Rahmen von Weiterbildungen (CAS Digitale Transformation, CAS Agile Leadership im Rahmen der digitalen Transformation und CAS Business Impact) in die Themen digitale Transformation und Organisationsentwicklung. Abgeschlossen wurden diese Studien im Jahr 2025 mit dem MBA Digitale Transformation am IKF in Luzern.

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Olivier Marquis

Olivier Marquis est né en 1977. Il commence les cours de solfège à 6 ans, puis à partir de 7 ans, joue le cornet dans le groupe des jeunes de l'Ensemble de cuivres de Mervelier. Dès l'âge de 10 ans, il participe à ses premiers concours régionaux et nationaux. Il réussit ensuite l'examen d'entrée au Brass band national des jeunes.

A 14 ans, il entre dans l'Ensemble de cuivres du Val-Terbi, sous la direction de Pascal Eicher, qui devient son professeur. L'année suivante, il participe à la création de l'Ensemble de cuivres jurassien (ECJ), dirigé actuellement par Blaise Héritier. A 19 ans, il passe du cornet à l'alto. Trois mois plus tard, en mars 1997, il obtient le titre de Champion jurassien toute catégorie en soliste, titre remporté aussi l'année suivante, en mars 1998. En avril 1998, il se classe troisième au Championnat suisse des solistes dans la catégorie Alto. En mai, 1998, il est soliste avec l'ECJ au Swiss Open Contest. En avril 1999, il se présente au Championnat d'Europe des solistes, où il obtient le titre de Champion d'Europe d'alto (Best Horn Player). En mai 1999, il obtient le deuxième prix au Championnat suisse des solistes toutes catégories confondues. Enfin, il obtient pour la troisième fois le titre de Champion jurassien en mars 2001.

Il dirige pendant près de 10 ans l'ECC Mervelier, qu'il mène jusqu'en première division. Il est président de la commission de musique de la Fédération Jurassienne de Musique de 2015 à 2020. Depuis 2018, il occupe à nouveau le poste d'alto solo à l'ECJ, et partage le poste de directeur assistant. Depuis 2024 il dirige la Fanfare de Montsevelier. Il est également membre de la Commission de Musique du CNSQ (Concours Suisse de Solistes et Quatuors).

Il fait ses preuves dans le milieu de la composition en écrivant entre autres des pièces pour des concours cantonaux et nationaux pour brass bands et harmonies, parmi lesquelles 'Antarès', 'Of Sand and Stones', 'Continuing' et 'A Tale of Sorcerers'. La musique n'est cependant pas sa profession puisqu'il est ingénieur en informatique. Il vit à Corban, dans le canton du Jura.



Andrea Price

Andrea's background in world-class music education is matched by two decades of experience in performance at the highest level. With her keen ear, outstanding analytical skill, and ability to inspire through her constructive and caring feedback, she is highly respected as an adjudicator both in the UK and internationally.

Andrea has judged at many of the UK's major contests, most recently Brass in Concert and the British Open Grand Shield, and she adjudicates regularly at Regional Championships and other local contests around the UK. In recent years she has adjudicated the national contests of Germany and the Netherlands, and is looking forward to adjudicating in Switzerland, Norway, Ireland, and the USA in 2026.

As an Assistant Principal and Academic Music teacher at Chetham's School of Music, Andrea is at the forefront of music education and pedagogy. With a stellar career as a percussionist for bands including YBS and Black Dyke, Andrea has won every major brass band competition, recorded numerous CDs, and toured the world as a performer.

She is also an extremely successful composer with a wide range of published and recorded works, and as a conductor she has worked with a number of youth and adult bands across the UK. She is incredibly passionate about the future of brass banding and is a strong advocate for improving diversity and equality.

www.andreapricemusic.com

Pascal Schafer



Pascal Schafer, geboren 1982 in Freiburg, ist Tubist, Dirigent und Musikpädagoge. Nach dem Lehrdiplom Tuba am Konservatorium Freiburg setzte er seine Studien in der Konzertklasse von Guy Michel an der Hochschule der Künste Bern fort und vertiefte parallel das Euphonium. Ein Stipendium der Fondation Hermann Elsner ermöglichte ihm ein Auslandssemester an der Hochschule für Musik und Theater Hannover in der international renommierten Tuba-Klasse von Jens-Björn Larsen.

Als Tubist arbeitete er mit Persönlichkeiten wie Roger Bobo, Thomas Rüedi, Jon Sass, Sérgio Carolino und Alan Baer zusammen und ist regelmässig in Orchestern wie dem Opus-Orchester Bern oder dem Freiburger Kammerorchester zu hören. Zudem ist er Mitglied des bekannten Nemo's Quintetts.

Seine dirigentische Ausbildung führte ihn zur Berufsklasse Blasmusikdirektion bei Jean-Claude Kolly sowie zum Masterabschluss an der Hochschule HEMU. Seit 2011 leitet er erfolgreich die Stadtmusik Biel und feierte mit ihr zahlreiche Wettbewerbserfolge, darunter Siege an kantonalen und eidgenössischen Musikfesten.

Neben seiner Tätigkeit als Dirigent unterrichtet Pascal Schafer an verschiedenen Musikschulen und am Konservatorium Freiburg. Er ist ein gefragter Kursleiter sowie Jury-Mitglied bei Blasmusik- und Solistenwettbewerben. Erfahrungen mit Streichensembles und Projekten wie „Le carnaval des animaux“ oder der Kinderoper „Brundibar“ runden sein künstlerisches Profil ab.



Rieks Van der Velde

Rieks van der Velde was born on 6 december 1961 in Lutjegast, Groningen, the Netherlands and studied euphonium and conducting at the Pedagogical Academy of Music in Leeuwarden.

He is besides arranger/composer, one of the best known conductors for brass bands in The Netherlands. With Brass Band De Wâldsang he has built a reputation in national and international competitions as well as fine concert performers. Besides conducting two other brass bands (1st division band Excelsior Zalk and Martini Brass Band Groningen, 2nd division) he is working as national and international adjudicator in music-contests.

In 2002 Rieks van der Velde started with Gerry Procee Lake Music Publications to publish music for brass band, concert band and fanfare band.