

## Richard Octaviano Kogima – Biography

Richard Octaviano Kogima is a Brazilian conductor, pianist and composer currently based in Zurich, Switzerland. Born and raised in São Paulo, he has performed throughout Brazil, United States and Europe in venues such as Tonhalle Zürich, DR Koncerthuset Copenhagen, Salle Cortot, Oslo University Aula, Sala São Paulo and Pärnu Concert Hall.

Richard has recently received the 2nd Prize and the Orchestra Prize at the Toscanini Conducting Competition, and participated in the Gstaad Conducting Academy, where he conducted the Gstaad Festival Orchestra and learned from Jaap van Zweden, Johannes Schlaefli and Mirga Gražinytė-Tyla. In 2024, he has conducted the Danish National Symphony Orchestra during the Malko Competition where he reached the Quarter-Finals, the Tonhalle Orchestra Zürich at the Conductors Academy with Paavo Järvi and the Orchestra Sinfonica di Milano at “Premio Guido Cantelli”, where he reached the semifinals. Highlights of the next season include a South America Tour where he will perform Brahms Second Piano Concerto as a soloist, and conduct the Orquestra de Concepción (Chile), a recording with the Nordwestdeutsche Philharmonie and debut with the Musikkollegium Winterthur.

While enjoying a successful and uprising career as a pianist, Richard started his conducting career in 2022, when he was personally invited by Herbert Blomstedt to accompany him in a 6 weeks USA tour with leading American orchestras and had the opportunity to learn closely from him. Mr. Blomstedt's encouragement has impacted Richard's development in countless and long-lasting ways. Since then, Richard enjoyed successful conducting debuts such as conducting the season opening of the Neojiba Orchestra in Salvador, Brazil, and other prominent Brazilian orchestras. In 2023 Richard was an active participant at the Järvi Conducting Academy in Pärnu, Estonia.

A laureate of several international piano competitions, Richard has been awarded the “Nelson Freire Award” at the Geza Anda Piano Competition in 2021. He participated in Festivals such as the Emil Gilels Festival, Usedomer Musikfest, Germany; Festspillene i Bergen, Norway; Chautauqua Institution Music Festival, USA. Richard has worked in masterclasses with Leif Ove Andsnes, Maria João Pires and Kirill Gerstein. He performed chamber music with Alexander Sitkovetsky, Paul Handschke and Andreas Janke, and has a duo with violist Gilad Karni and cellist Mar Gimferrer.

In 2019 Richard received a Medal of Honor from the “Association Internationale Pour La Défense De La Liberté Religieuse” in Geneva after performing a series of concerts dedicated to this cause.

Richard obtained two Masters Degrees in Piano in the class of Konstantin Scherbakov and a Masters in Choir Conducting in the Class of Markus Utz at the Zurich University of Arts. He currently teaches chamber music, piano and conducting at the Pre-College Department of this institution. Richard received his Bachelor in Piano Performance at Universidade de São Paulo (class of Eduardo Monteiro) and a Diplôme Supérieur d'Exécution at the École Normale de Musique de Paris (class of Guigla Katsarava) funded by a full scholarship from “Fond Brésil”. In his youth, he studied with Maria José Carrasqueira and his grandmother, Helgard Ostermayer Octaviano.