



## Meet the Music Director

Andi Zdrava  
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Andi Zdrava, European American conductor and pianist, started his career in music at age 5 at the Onufri School of Music in Elbasan, Albania. He has served as music director of Ann Maria Island Concert Chorus & Orchestra, and is founder/conductor of the Illyrian Symphony orchestra in Sarasota, Fla. Under his leadership, the Illyrian Symphony Orchestra is attracting diverse audiences and has performed at a variety of concert halls.

Andi continues to collaborate with and serve as an international jury member for the Carles and Sofia International Piano Competition. He also has collaborated with multiple prestigious ensembles and organizations, including Opera Tampa, State Orchestra of Athens, Tampa Metropolitan Youth Orchestra, St. Petersburg Opera Company, Suncoast Symphony Orchestra, South Shore Symphony Orchestra, and the Orchestra of Colors. In addition to his solo endeavors, he is a member of the Mirage Piano Trio and Z Square Piano Duo, showcasing his musical versatility.

Born in Elbasan, Albania, and raised in Glyfada, Greece, Andi studied piano under Evgenia Tambulidi at the Glyfada Music Conservatory and earned his piano diploma in 2007. Desiring to share his knowledge and to foster an engaging environment, Andi held teaching positions in piano and collaborative piano at the National Conservatory of Greece and Glyfada Conservatory. He later earned his bachelor's degree in music composition at the University of Indianapolis under the guidance of Professor Keith Moore. In 2014, he moved to Tampa, Fla., to pursue his passion in orchestral conducting. He earned master's degrees in orchestra conducting and piano performance in 2017 from the University of South Florida under mentors Dr. William W. Wiedrich and Dr. Svetozar Ivano. He continued his educational pursuits during this time as graduate assistant in piano performance and orchestral conducting.

Andi has participated in master classes across Europe, learning from distinguished artists such as Michail Markov, Alexander Ghindin, Nikolai Petrov and Pascal Roge. He has performed at numerous concerts, festivals and competitions across the world, including in The Netherlands, Spain, Germany, Russia, Albania, the United States and Greece.

With his unwavering dedication to and belief in the uplifting power of music to inspire hope, Andi is excited to captivate audiences and to serve Faith Lutheran Church.