



International
Society for the
Performing Arts



Lugano
Arte e
Cultura

ANTHONY FIELD ACADEMY

ISPA 2025 Lugano Congress

Art and Social Political Change

June 9-10, 2025

Lugano Arte e Cultura, Sala 1

Piazza Bernardini Luini 6, 6900 Lugano, Switzerland

Hosts: Maria Tartari and Mara Driscoll

Monday, June 9

Registration and Check-In

10:30AM - 11:00AM

Welcome and Introductions

11:00AM - 12:00PM

Diving In: Breakout Discussions

12:00PM - 1:00PM

- Performing Arts and Health: Psycho-Social Wellbeing On Stage and Off
- Measuring Impacts: Performing Arts and Social Change
- Navigating Conflict: Art as a Safe Space for Dialogue
- Working Toward True Sustainability: Balancing Ecology, Equity, and Expression
- Censorship and Artistic Integrity: Negotiating Power, Freedom, and Voice

Lunch

1:00PM - 2:00PM

Exploring Arts Service Organizations

2:00PM - 3:00PM

Speakers:

- Canadian Association for the Performing Arts (CAPACOA): Natalie Lue
- European Festivals Association (EFA): Thomas Hummell
- International Arts Managers' Association (IAMA): Atholl Swainston-Harrison
- International Society for the Performing Arts (ISPA): Mara Driscoll
- Performing Arts Network New Zealand (PANNZ): Louise Gallagher

Afternoon Break

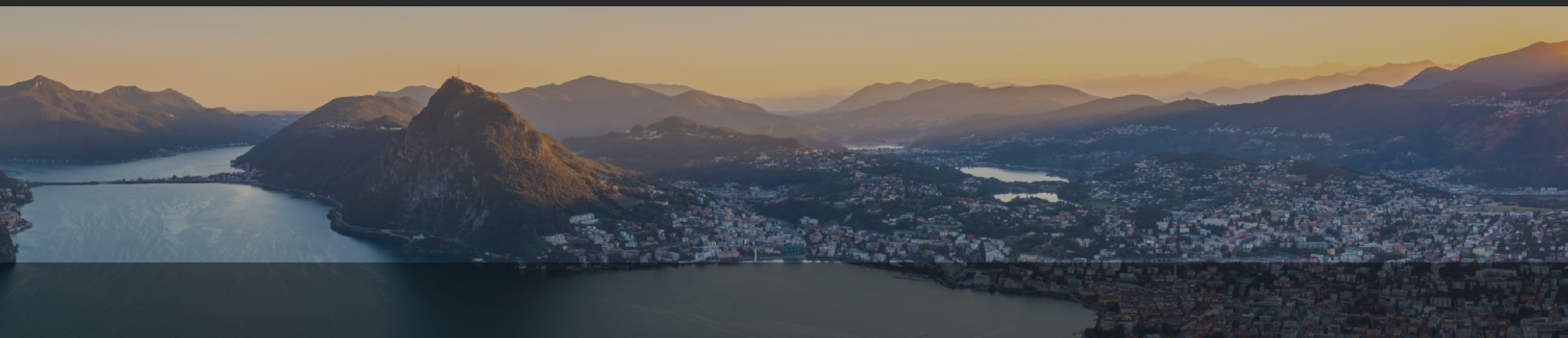
3:00PM - 3:30PM

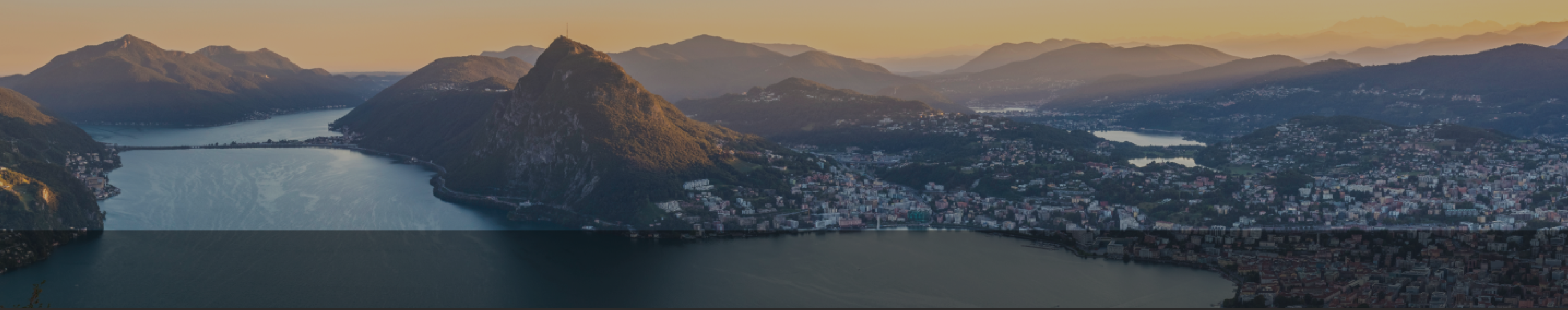
Exploring International Producing: In Conversation with Farooq Chaudhry

3:30PM - 4:20PM

Speaker: Farooq Chaudhry

Host: Cathy Barbash





How to ISPA

4:20PM - 4:40PM

Speaker: Allen Moon

Wrap Up

4:40PM - 5:00PM

Anthony Field Academy Reception

5:00PM - 7:00PM

Tuesday, June 10

Welcome

9:00AM - 9:10AM

CHAT-ART: Leadership and Funding

9:10AM - 10:45AM

Facilitator: Maria Tartari

Spotlight on Andrea Amarante, Co-Artistic Director at Lugano Arte e Cultura

10:45AM - 11:30AM

Speaker: Andrea Amarante

Wrap Up and Closing

11:30AM-11:45AM

Speaker and Facilitator Bios

Andrea Amarante – Artistic Director, Lugano Arte e Cultura

Andrea Amarante is a seasoned cultural manager and artistic programmer with over two decades of experience across leading European institutions. His career spans symphonic, operatic, and interdisciplinary fields, with a strong focus on international collaboration, institutional strategy, and audience development.

He has held senior roles at Teatro alla Scala in Milan, Teatro San Carlo in Naples, Luzerner Sinfonieorchester, and the Teatro Lirico Sperimentale di Spoleto, contributing to major productions, touring activities, and the development of new artistic formats. His work combines a rigorous understanding of artistic planning with deep expertise in production management, budgeting, and cultural diplomacy. Currently, he serves as Artistic Director of the Music Department at LAC Lugano Arte e Cultura, where he is leading a transformative project to expand the institution's musical vision. His programming approach fosters encounters between classical repertoire, contemporary creation, jazz, and global music traditions, with a strong commitment to territorial engagement and public accessibility.

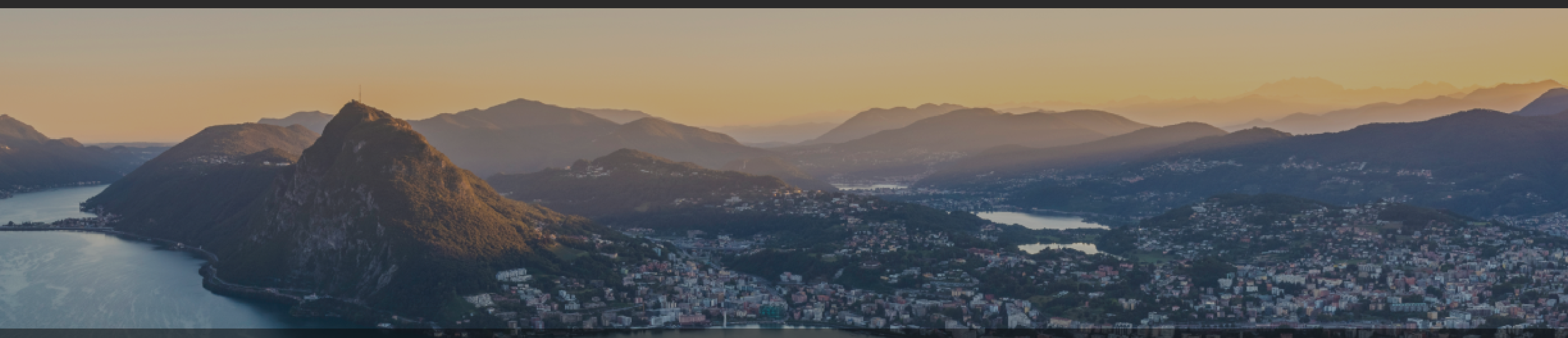
Andrea is particularly interested in the evolving role of cultural institutions in society and the balance between artistic excellence and civic responsibility. His work reflects a belief in the performing arts as a space for imagination, ethical inquiry, and shared meaning.

Cathy Barbash – President, Barbash Arts Foundation/Barbash Arts Consulting

Cathy Barbash is a cultural diplomacy impresario, cultural catalyst, an independent producer, and a specialist in creative industry development in the People's Republic of China and Cuba. She received a 2015 Silver Magnolia Award from the Shanghai government in recognition of her longtime contributions to the economic and social development of the city, and the 2018 Patrick Hayes Award from the International Society for the Performing Arts, in recognition of her transformative leadership in the performing arts.

Barbash has spent 40 years managing and consulting to organizations including The Philadelphia Orchestra, the United States Department of State, The President's Committee on the Arts and the Humanities, The Ministry of Culture of the People's Republic of China, The John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, The Juilliard School, and the China Shanghai International Arts Festival. A graduate of Harvard University, Barbash serves on the boards of Ping Chong & Company and Early Music America. She is President of the Barbash Arts Foundation, which produces the annual Lillian and Maurice Barbash J.S. Bach Competition for young string players. She is a member of the International Advisory Council of the Shanghai Jewish Refugee Museum, and the National Committee on United States-China Relations.

Barbash expanded her work into Cuba in 2016. She collaborates with several theater companies and maintains strong relationships with the Casa de las Américas, the Museo Nacional de Bellas Artes, and the Havana International Jazz Plaza Festival.





Farooq Chaudhry - Producing Director, Akram Khan Company

Farooq Chaudhry, a renowned dance producer, has shaped British contemporary dance for over three decades. Born in Pakistan and raised in London, he transitioned from a successful dance career (1986–1999) to arts management, earning an MA from City University. In 2000, he co-founded Akram Khan Company, pioneering innovative business models that propelled it to global acclaim. Chaudhry challenged artistic norms, championed cultural diversity, and amplified marginalized voices.

*Beyond production, he collaborated with leading institutions like English National Ballet and Chinese choreographer Yang Liping, fostering international connections. An esteemed educator, he often lectures at Goldsmiths University and the London Business School. Honours include an *OBE (2019), honorary doctorates, and trusteeship at Tate Museums (2019–2023).*

*In 2021, he launched Fengling Productions, exploring East Asian artistry. His directorial debut, *Nine Songs* (2022), reflects his vision: “Beautiful things happen when different worlds meet. His latest work, *Ten Thousand Tons of Moonlight*, premiered in 2024.*

Mara Driscoll - Program and Advancement Manager, International Society for the Performing Arts (ISPA)

Mara Driscoll is the Program and Advancement Manager at the International Society for the Performing Arts (ISPA) She joined the ISPA team in 2022 and loves working with an inspiring and culturally diverse community of arts leaders. Beyond her work with ISPA, Mara is the Co-Founder and Producer of Art Bath, an NYC-based multidisciplinary performance series that has presented major names in opera, dance, music, theater, and visual art. Through Art Bath, Mara has guest curated and produced for 92NY, the Prototype Festival, Fotografiska, and the Cathedral of St. John the Divine. Her background as a performer includes years dancing with the Metropolitan Opera Ballet. She is a graduate of New York University’s Gallatin School for Individualized study, where she concentrated on intersections between art, religion, and society.

Louise Gallagher - CEO, Performing Arts Network of New Zealand (PANNZ)

As the CEO of PANNZ (Performing Arts Network of New Zealand) since 2017, Louise Gallagher brings over two decades of arts management experience to the organization. Her career has spanned a diverse range of productions, from large commercial ventures to intimate performing arts shows.

At the heart of her work is a commitment to promoting independently produced, high-quality artistic creations from Aotearoa on both national and international platforms. During her tenure at PANNZ, she has cultivated a team of accomplished professionals and significantly expanded the organization's revenue by over 5000%. Her strategic initiatives include the annual PANNZ Arts Market, the national touring programme, and the recently established Festivals Commissioning and Presentation Fund.

Louise is dedicated to fostering connections, building partnerships, and creating opportunities that link artists and the broader industry in Aotearoa, with the goal of increasing the presentation of New Zealand work nationally and internationally. She is also a strong proponent of developing relationships with other arts leaders who share a vision for a thriving and sustainable arts sector.

Louise holds a Bachelor of Arts in Art History and Social Humanities from The University of Auckland, a Diploma in Marketing from NZIM, and is a graduate of the Leadership Programme for High Potentials at the NZ Institute of Strategic Leadership.

Thomas Hummel - Executive Director, Baltic Sea Philharmonic

Thomas Hummel, born in 1968, founded the Usedom Music Festival in 1994 and has served as its Executive Director ever since. In 2008, he launched the Baltic Sea Philharmonic, which has performed in European cities like Berlin, London, and Paris, as well as the Hong Kong Arts Festival. In May 2022, Hummel brought the New York Philharmonic, led by Jaap van Zweden, to the Baltic Sea Island of Usedom for a week-long residency featuring Anne Sophie Mutter as soloist and others. Since 2021, Hummel has served on the board of the European Festival Association in Brussels, further solidifying his impact on the classical music scene.

Natalie Lue - Director, Vancouver Civic Theatres

Natalie Lue is the Director of the Vancouver Civic Theatres (four iconic venues ranging in size from 191 to 2,765 seats) in Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada. Previously, she was the CEO of the Living Arts Centre (LAC), a multi-arts presentation centre in Mississauga, Ontario, and Vice President, Production and Visitor Experience for the Toronto International Film Festival (TIFF) responsible for producing twelve of the annual September Festivals. She was also on the build team responsible for the construction, opening and operating of TIFF Bell Lightbox. Prior to joining TIFF, Natalie held several senior positions at Harbourfront Centre, a ten-acre performing arts complex in Toronto on the shores of Lake Ontario.

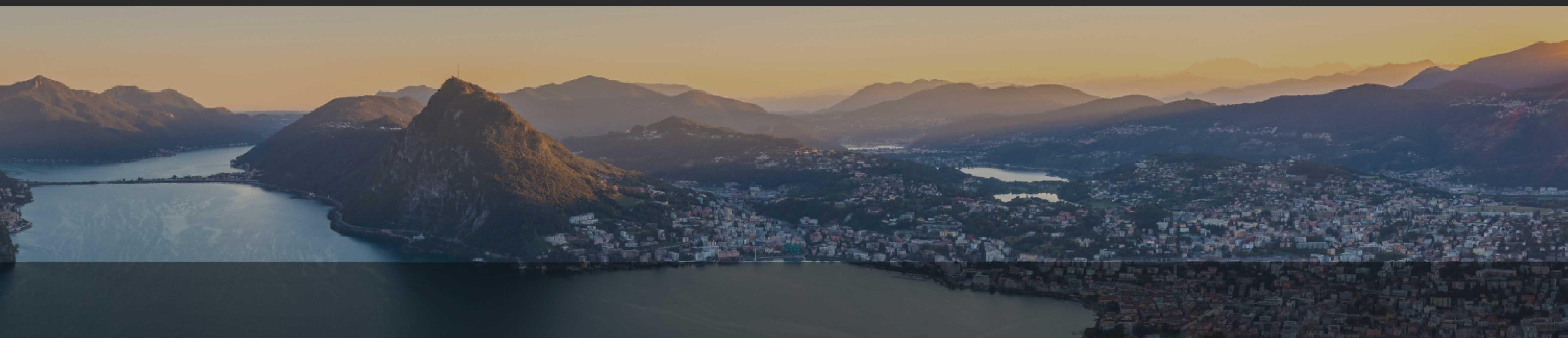
Natalie is currently the Board Chair of CAPACOA (Canadian Association for the Performing Arts) and a member of ISPA's Governance Committee.

Allen Moon - Director of Touring and Artist Management, David Lieberman Artist's Representatives

Allen began his career in the performing arts touring nationally and internationally with the Mehmet Sander Dance Company and Diavolo Dance Theater. He currently serves as Director of Touring & Artist Management for David Lieberman Artists' Representatives, where he has created tours for contemporary ensembles, including the Merce Cunningham Dance Company, Circa Contemporary Circus, Ballet BC, Kronos Quartet, Wild Up, Bang on a Can All-Stars, Australian Chamber Orchestra, Why Not Theatre, Los Angeles Master Chorale, the it gets better project, and Indian Ink Theatre Company, to performing arts centers and festivals across the globe.

Atholl Swainston-Harrison - Chief Executive, International Arts Managers Association

Atholl studied music obtaining a BMus, Bachelor of Education and University teaching diploma (HDE) in South Africa before completing his National Service in the Infantry. He then managed the Pro Music Orchestra and Opera Company, becoming Assistant Director of the Roodepoort City Theatre and Opera (Johannesburg). He took on the role of Chief Executive of IAMA from 2000 after obtaining an MA at City University in London. In his spare time, he serves as a trustee on the West London Hospital Trust, Alex Simpson Smith Memorial Trust (Great Ormond Street, London) and Howard Davis Farm Trust (Jersey). He served a full term on the Central Council of the Royal Overseas League (2018-2024) and was a trustee of the University of Natal UK Trust (98-2017) and Council member of the Royal Philharmonic Society (2015-2021). He is a member of the Royal Philharmonic Society and Royal Society of Musicians. In February 2022, he received an Association of British Orchestras award for services to the music profession.





Maria Tartari – Post-doc Researcher, Consiglio Nazionale delle Ricerche – National Research Council of Italy (CNR)

Maria Tartari, post-doc researcher at ISPC-CNR, PhD in Economics of Knowledge, Communication, Culture and Creativity. Her research investigates culture-led social development strategies and the impacts of cultural practices in the public and digital space, focusing on Cultural Sociology and art-led gentrification phenomena. She is lecturer for IULM University at the Faculty of Arts and Tourism, and works as a Consultant in Cultural Project Management , collaborating with Fondazione Bruno Kessler and Impact Hub Italia on European and H2020 projects. She spent a research period at Harvard University and still collaborates with metaLab Harvard and Berlin, and EIT Culture&Creativity.