

**The following interview with  
MARIN ALSOP  
was conducted by the Library of Congress  
on April 2, 2020**



**Library of Congress:** One of your mentors was the great Leonard Bernstein, also a member of the National Registry. What was the single best advice he ever gave you?

Marin Alsop: Bernstein gave me so much great advice, but the best advice he gave me was to always be myself. Stand up for what I believe in and be a strong citizen of the world.

**LOC:** You've conducted many works by Jennifer Higdon over the years. How was *Percussion Concerto* different from some of the other works of hers you have taken on?

MA: Jennifer's music is always compelling, but this collaboration between Jennifer and Colin is on fire! (I introduced them by the way!)

**LOC:** How many rehearsals, with the full orchestra and with Colin Currie, were you able to have before the recording was made?

MA: We had the regular number of rehearsals for an LPO program but that was for the entire program: four rehearsals.

**LOC:** This recording was done with the London Philharmonic. Is there a difference between conducting a British orchestra versus an American one?

MA: I love working with British musicians. Their work ethic and sense of humor are unparalleled!