

ELUMNI INSIGHTS

Paolo Petrocelli, Oxford Executive Leadership Programme



European Young Leader is “one of the most influential global cultural personalities”

Paolo Petrocelli PhD-EMBA-FRSA is a senior cultural and performing arts manager, university professor and journalist driven by the belief that culture, arts and education are a major force for growth, development and change globally.

In 2022, Paolo was selected by the think tank Friends of Europe among the 40 most influential young personalities in Europe and nominated European Young Leader. The European Young Leader programme aims to promote a European identity by engaging Europe’s most promising talents in initiatives that will shape the continent’s future. The European Young Leaders represent promising leadership from all over Europe with a wide variety of backgrounds including politics, business, civil society, academia, arts, science and the media. This honour recognises Paolo Petrocelli as one of the leading cultural managers of his generation at European and international level.

Impact of Culture and the Arts

Paolo stated: “This nomination is much more than a personal honour. It stands as a recognition of the impact that culture and the arts have in connecting and engaging individuals and communities around the world. It reflects the dedication and commitment of many colleagues I’ve worked with on numerous projects to generate a positive change on an international level. The Saïd Business School has helped me to achieve this recognition with the Oxford Online Leadership Programme, an extraordinary training experience that prepared me to face the world with much more global awareness and perspectives.”

Also in 2022, the prestigious magazine Fortune named him among the 40 most influential personalities under 40 in Italy, as the first cultural manager ever selected.

Ambassador and expert

A passionate, innovative and dynamic manager with over 13 years experience in leadership positions in a wide range of institutions and organizations, he is an international relations and global cultural affairs expert.

In order to serve as an active citizen and support non-profit activity, he has become a leading member of some of the most prestigious international organizations, including United Nations, UNESCO, World Economic Forum.

As a cultural and music diplomacy ambassador, he serves in institutional roles to forge bonds through music and arts in Europe, the Middle East, Africa, Asia and the US.

He is the Founder and President of EMMA for Peace (Euro-Mediterranean Music Academy), one of the world’s largest international non-profit organizations for the promotion of a culture of peace through music diplomacy and education in Europe, Middle East and the Mediterranean region.



Paolo is the Founder and Honorary President of the Italian Youth Association for UNESCO, the largest youth organization in the UNESCO system, Cultural Diplomacy Officer for the World Summit of Nobel Peace Laureates and Cultural Advisor to Coldplay.

Top-level roles in the public and private sector have rounded out his cultural relations and senior arts executive expertise, allowing collaboration with global leaders in performing arts management.

Stauffer Center for Strings

He is the founding Director-General of the Stauffer Center for Strings in Cremona, Italy, one of the world's leading centres for training young string musicians. Cremona is world famous as the location of some of the greatest violin and other strings instrument production and as a centre of strings musicianship.

To help shape the next generation, Petrocelli lectures at leading universities, including Yale University, MIT, New York University, Université Paris-Sorbonne. He is a Research Affiliate at metaLAB at Harvard University.

He is a contributor for Forbes, Arabian Business, Huffington Post and a TEDx Speaker, having spoken about how powerful music can be, a universally spoken language that closes language barriers and brings positive changes in our world.

www.paolopetrocelli.com