Nicolas Ellis is the Artistic Director, Conductor and Founder of the Orchestre de l’Agora and currently serves as Artistic Partner to the Orchestre Métropolitain and Yannick Nézet-Séguin.

Mr. Ellis has been invited as guest conductor with Les Violons du Roy, the National Arts Centre Orchestra, the Orchestre de chambre I Musici de Montréal, the Kitchener-Waterloo Symphony, the Orchestre symphonique de Québec, the Orchestre Métropolitain, Symphony Nova Scotia, the Orchestre classique de Montréal, the Ottawa Symphony, the Saskatoon Symphony Orchestra, the Royal Conservatory of Music in Toronto and Les Grands Ballets Canadiens. He also regularly collaborates with the Opéra de Montréal’s Atelier lyrique. During the 2021-2022 season, in addition to his guest conducting engagements, he will act as Assistant conductor at the Opéra Comique in Paris for conductor Raphaël Pichon and the Ensemble Pygmalion, on a new production of *Fidelio* (Fall 2021). In January 2022, he will also act as Cover conductor to Yannick Nézet-Séguin and the Philadelphia Orchestra for recordings which will be released under the label Deutsche Grammophon.

Nicolas Ellis has had the opportunity to perform with artists such as Jean-Guihen Queyras, Marie-Nicole Lemieux, Julie Boulianne, Hélène Guilmette, Karina Gauvin, Anthony Roth Constanzo and Charles Richard-Hamelin.

In 2013, he founded the Orchestre de l’Agora, an orchestra now recognized on the Montreal scene for its artistically audacious programs and its social engagement. The ensemble has built collaborations with the music program of the Share the Warmth Foundation, Les Porteurs de musique and the Espace Transition of the Hôpital Ste-Justine, giving workshops, music lessons and concerts to children coming from underprivileged neighbourhoods. Agora also presents concerts in places where people don’t have access to music such as Psychiatric centres, shelters and elderly homes. During the 2021-2022, Agora will begin a new concert series at the Prison Bordeaux in the north of Montreal. On April 22nd 2020, the Orchestre de l’Agora donated 138 000$ to Earth Day Canada, the Sierra Club Canada and Nature Conservancy of Canada through the Gala de la Terre, an important fundraising event to protect the St-Laurent River’s estuary. The concerts of Agora have been recorded and broadcasted by Radio-Canada and CBC Music, including their production of Britten’s *The Turn of the Screw* in collaboration with the Atelier lyrique de l’Opéra de Montréal. During the 2021-2022, Agora will perform Bach’s complete Brandenburg concertos, as part of the Montreal Bach Festival. The orchestra will undergo a concert tour of seven concerts across Québec and Ontario and will renew their status of "resident orchestra" at the Atelier lyrique de l’Opéra de Montréal.

Nicolas Ellis has participated in a number of conducting workshops, most notably at the Verbier Festival, assisting Maestro Valery Gergiev, the Aspen Music Festival where he studied with Robert Spano and at the Accademia Chigiana di Siena with Gianluigi Gelmetti.

He is the recipient of the 2017 Bourse de carrière Fernand-Lindsay and was named Revelation of the year 2018-2019 by Radio-Canada. He is also the recipient of the Heinz Unger Award 2015 delivered by the Ontario Arts Council . More recently, he won the Prix Goyer Mécénat Musica 2021.