



Heinz Hall | 600 Penn Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15222  
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## PITTSBURGH SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA ANNOUNCES NEW MUSIC DIRECTOR MANFRED HONECK

PITTSBURGH - The Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra today announced the appointment of Manfred Honeck as its new Music Director. Marking the beginning of a new period in the orchestra's storied history, Manfred Honeck will begin his initial three-year contract in September 2008, conducting 8 weeks in the first season and 10 weeks in subsequent seasons, with additional weeks for touring. Tours are already planned, including a return to Vienna's Musikverein in 2010.

Larry Tamburri, Pittsburgh Symphony President and CEO, remarked, "The current artistic leadership model, comprised of Artistic Advisor Sir Andrew Davis, Principal Guest Conductor Yan Pascal Tortelier, and Endowed Guest Conductor Chair Marek Janowski, has taught us much over the last two seasons. From our three respected conductor colleagues, we have gained a great deal, and our orchestra has remained vibrant, secure and committed to excellence. In taking our time to assess the needs of the PSO, we have concluded that a strong, central leader is important to enhancing the artistic excellence of this orchestra. We have found that leader in Manfred Honeck, and we are exceedingly happy to welcome him."

Dick Simmons, PSO Board of Trustees' Chairman, stated, "On behalf of the Trustees, I would like to thank our search committee, led by Tom Todd and comprised of musicians, board and staff, for all its hard work and effort. They took this responsibility seriously, searching far and wide. Their excellent judgment and considerable time brought us to the unanimous conclusion that the best outcome for this orchestra was Manfred Honeck. It became clear, watching Manfred over an extended period of time, that the PSO would benefit greatly from him."

Of his new position, Maestro Honeck said, "It is with great joy that I assume the post of Music Director of one of the world's finest orchestras. I am aware that this wonderful task is accompanied by great responsibility with regard to maintaining and enhancing the high level of performance developed by my predecessors and the orchestra together. It is no exaggeration to say that the orchestra and I got on like a house on fire. Right from our



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first encounter I realized that with these highly professional and motivated musicians, it would be possible to convey a vivid message much needed in today's world of classical music. These excellent and experienced musicians have managed to maintain a freshness and ardor which is highly contagious and, with the support of orchestra and management alike, I will do everything to ensure that these ripples of enthusiasm continuously inspire our audience.”

PSO Concertmaster Andrés Cárdenes commented, “The Pittsburgh Symphony musicians and I are grateful for the artistic leadership that was shared over the past several years. We are thrilled with the appointment of Manfred Honeck as new Music Director and excited about the next chapter in the long, rich history of the PSO.”

Former Pittsburgh Symphony Music Director Mariss Jansons remarked, “Manfred Honeck is a profound musician and a wonderful human being. He is a superb choice by the Pittsburgh Symphony. Together they will be a great combination.”

Honeck began his career as a musician with the Vienna Philharmonic Orchestra in 1983, first as a violinist and then a violist over a ten year period. It was there, while performing under some of the world’s most important and respected conductors, that he chose to begin his career on the podium. Honeck recently concluded his tenure as Music Director of the Swedish Radio Symphony Orchestra, a position he held from 2000 to 2006. In addition to his new position with the Pittsburgh Symphony, Honeck is also Music Director Designate of the Staatsoper Stuttgart and Principal Guest Conductor of the Czech Philharmonic. His guest engagements have included the Symphonieorchester des Bayerischen Rundfunks in Munich, Deutsches Symphonie-Orchester Berlin, Gewandhausorchester Leipzig, Staatskapelle Dresden, Vienna Philharmonic, Royal Concertgebouw Orchestra, London Philharmonic Orchestra, Orchestre Philharmonique de Radio France, Chicago Symphony Orchestra and Los Angeles Philharmonic.

Manfred Honeck was born in 1958 in Nenzing, Austria, into a family of 9 children. His parents encouraged each of the children to learn an instrument. Rainer, Manfred’s brother, is concertmaster of the Vienna Philharmonic. Manfred Honeck, his wife Christiane, and their six children, ages 5 to 25, live in Altsch, Austria, near the town where he grew up.

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