



Heinz Hall | 600 Penn Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15222  
phone 412.392.4900 | www.pittsburghsymphony.org

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“A combination of European musicianship and American perfectionism; it was like a thriller. These musicians are orchestra virtuosos of rare quality.”  
Michael Stenger, *Westdeutsche Allgemeine Zeitung*

“...the PSO traversed the Eighth Symphony of Beethoven; their energy, and energetic musicality, were almost shocking. Apparently, no one had told them that Beethoven is old news.”  
Jay Nordlinger, *The New York Sun*

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For more than 100 years, the **Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra** has been an essential part of Pittsburgh’s cultural landscape. The PSO prides itself in artistic excellence, a rich history of the world’s finest conductors and musicians, a strong commitment to the Pittsburgh region, and the cultivation of its family of constituents and households. Artistic Advisor Sir Andrew Davis, along with Principal Guest Conductor Yan Pascal Tortelier and Endowed Guest Conductor Chair Marek Janowski begin the 2007-08 Season leading the PSO under this historically innovative leadership model. With great enthusiasm this Artistic Leadership Team will pass the baton, as the Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra welcomes to the podium Music Director Manfred Honeck in September 2008.

Heading the list of internationally recognized conductors is Victor Herbert, Music Director between 1898 and 1904, who influenced the initial development of the PSO. Preceding Herbert was Frederic Archer (1896-1899), the first Pittsburgh Orchestra Conductor. Critical to the Orchestra’s solidification as an American institution in the late 1930s was Maestro Otto Klemperer. Conductors prior to Mr. Klemperer were Emil Paur (1904-1910), Elias Breeskin (1926-1930) and Antonio Modarelli (1930-1937). From 1938 to 1948 the Orchestra embarked on a new phase of its history, taking its first foreign tour and making its first commercial recording under the dynamic directorship of Fritz Reiner.

The PSO’s high standard of excellence was maintained and enhanced through the inspired leadership of William Steinberg during his quarter-century as Music Director between 1952 and 1976. André Previn (1976-1984) led the Orchestra to new heights through tours, recordings and television, including the PBS series “Previn and the Pittsburgh.” Lorin Maazel began in 1984 as Music Consultant but later served as Music Director from 1988-1996, molding the PSO into one of the finest orchestras in the world. As Music Director from 1997-2004, Mariss Jansons furthered the artistic growth of the orchestra.

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“For the musicians, the past 12 months have been a banner year. From the Proms to the Pope, they have served as cultural exporters, connecting the name of Pittsburgh to excellence overseas.”  
The *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette* voted the Musicians of the Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra its No. 1 Cultural Force in Pittsburgh for 2004, a list of Top 50 Cultural Forces in the city compiled each year by the newspaper.

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In January 2008, marking the beginning of a year-long celebration of Pittsburgh’s 250th anniversary, the Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra will embark on a three-week-long Pittsburgh

SIR ANDREW DAVIS, Artistic Advisor | MARVIN HAMLISCH, Principal Pops Conductor  
YAN PASCAL TORTELIER, Principal Guest Conductor | MAREK JANOWSKI, Endowed Guest Conductor Chair  
RICHARD P. SIMMONS, Chairman | LAWRENCE J. TAMBURRI, President



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250 Ambassador Tour. Touring 13 cities in Europe, the PSO will be accompanied by the Allegheny Conference on Community Development which will promote the Pittsburgh region to international corporations. The Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra's ranking as a world-class orchestra, earned critical acclaim for each tour abroad beginning in the early 1900s. Beginning with a 1947 appearance in Mexico, the 30 international tours include 17 European tours, seven trips to the Far East and two to South America. The Far East Tour in 2002 marked first-time concerts for the Orchestra in Kuala Lumpur and Australia. Reaching a global audience, the PSO became the first American orchestra to perform for the late Pope John Paul II at the Vatican in January 2004—part of the Pontiff's Silver Jubilee celebration, helping to spread a lifelong message of unity among all faiths.

The Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra also enjoys an equally distinguished record of domestic tours, which over the years have showcased the orchestra in all of America's major cities and music centers, including annual performances at Carnegie Hall in New York. In recent seasons, the PSO has toured Florida, the Midwest and the West Coast.

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"Vitality, vibrancy and the most vivid, exciting sound heard in this hall in many a year were the hallmarks of this brilliant orchestra. Not for nothing is the Pittsburgh regarded among the elite of North American ensembles."

A.J. Sicluna, *South Wales Echo*

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The PSO has achieved a long and illustrious reputation for its recordings and radio concerts. As early as 1936, the PSO has been broadcast coast-to-coast, receiving increased national attention in 1982 through its series of network radio broadcasts by Public Radio International, produced by WQED-FM 89.3 in Pittsburgh.

Starting with the release of its first commercial recording in 1941, the PSO has made hundreds of critically acclaimed recordings. They are available on the PentaTone, EMI, Angel, CBS, Philips, MCA, New World, Nonesuch, Sony Classical and Telarc labels. The orchestra with Lorin Maazel conducting and cellist Yo-Yo Ma, won a 1992 Grammy Award for a Sony Classical disc featuring works by Prokofiev and Tchaikovsky. *Cinema Serenade*, a CD with John Williams conducting and Itzhak Perlman performing celebrated film scores, reached No. 1 on the *Billboard* crossover chart. The PSO's newest recording is its first with Endowed Guest Conductor Chair Marek Janowski on the PentaTone label, live in 5-channel surround sound. The three-disc set will include Johannes Brahms' four symphonies, as well as *Variations on a Theme by Haydn*, and eight *Hungarian Dances* (orchestrated by Brahms and Dvorák). Some of these works were performed in the 2006-2007 Season and the remaining works are to be performed over two concert weekends in the 2007-2008 Season. The first of these recordings is to be released in August 2007, with subsequent recordings in the beginning of 2008.

At home in historic Heinz Hall, the Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra offers sought-after subscription concerts including 22 weeks of classical concerts annually, a Pops series of seven weekends, and the Fiddlesticks Family Concert series featuring the feline "Ambassador to Children." Numerous community engagement and partnership concerts are performed throughout Western Pennsylvania, West Virginia and Maryland. The PSO also performs free,



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educational concerts in Heinz Hall for students, and summer concerts in Allegheny County parks. In 2007, the Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra became the first orchestra to receive both the Bank of America and MetLife Awards for Excellence in Orchestra Education.

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"It is one of the Orchestras in the U.S. and in the world most worth hearing...Storm the ticket window!"

*Berlingski Tidende (Copenhagen)*

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Drawing upon musicians from five continents and music schools throughout the world, the PSO and its growing family expresses great diversity and an immense appreciation of excellent music. Today the Pittsburgh Symphony remains among the world's top orchestras, and has even been named by some as the "Greatest American Orchestra."

(2007-08)