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MUSIC DIRECTOR DESIGNATE MANFRED HONECK  
AND THE PITTSBURGH SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA  
ANNOUNCE APPOINTMENT OF LEONARD SLATKIN  
AS PRINCIPAL GUEST CONDUCTOR  
AND ANNOUNCE FUTURE DIRECTION IN NEW  
MUSIC

PITTSBURGH – Music Director Designate **Manfred Honeck** and the PSO today announced the appointment of **Leonard Slatkin** as the new **Principal Guest Conductor** effective September 1, 2008. His initial contract will be for three years, and he will conduct a minimum of three weeks per season to include a combination of Mellon Grand Classics subscription weeks, special projects, domestic tours, and other activities. He will also establish an annual Conducting Institute similar to the one he founded in Washington. Slatkin's many years as music director of the St. Louis Symphony, Washington's National Symphony, and the BBC Symphony have enabled him to develop an extensive repertoire, which he brings to the benefit of the PSO as Principal Guest Conductor. His unique track record in contemporary American music also complements Music Director Designate Manfred Honeck's depth and expertise in the core German repertoire, in which the PSO's heritage is so deeply rooted.

Music Director Designate Manfred Honeck commented, "I am delighted that Leonard Slatkin has agreed to become Principal Guest Conductor of the Pittsburgh Symphony. He has an excellent relationship with the orchestra which he has conducted in a wide range of repertoire over many years. His special relationship to American music is particularly important to one of America's great orchestras. I believe that we will enjoy wonderful artistic growth with Maestro Slatkin joining our team."

Leonard Slatkin remarked, "It has been my pleasure to work with the Pittsburgh Symphony for many years. During the last season, it became apparent that our relationship had moved to a higher level. I was thrilled when told that the orchestra desired this collaboration. Manfred Honeck will bring a new dynamic to the ensemble and I hope that my role will compliment his vision. I am also very much

looking forward to continuing my work as a teacher with a new and expanded Conducting Institute which we will establish in Pittsburgh.”

Said President and CEO Larry Tamburri, “With the uniting of Manfred Honeck’s and Leonard Slatkin’s strengths, the Pittsburgh Symphony is poised on the threshold of exciting new beginnings. We are thrilled by the many plans and possibilities opening before us.”

Slatkin will succeed current Principal Guest Conductor Yan Pascal Tortelier, who has held the position since 2005. Tortelier, who is also Conductor Laureate of the BBC Philharmonic Orchestra, will continue to return annually to the PSO as a guest conductor.

## FUTURE DIRECTION

Music Director Designate Manfred Honeck is also pleased to announce that, in continuing with the Pittsburgh Symphony’s on-going commitment to living composers, there will be three giants from the composing world taking the role of Composer of the Year for the next three seasons. In 2007-08, **John Corigliano** will join the Orchestra for four weeks, and the world premiere of his Percussion Concerto, written for Evelyn Glennie, will be performed in February 2008 under the direction of Marin Alsop. In the 2008-09 season, **John Adams** will be the PSO’s Composer of the Year. In the 2009-2010 season the position will be held by **Richard Danielpour**.

The PSO began its Composer of the Year program in 2001, in an effort to bring audiences and living composers closer together. By focusing on a different composer each season, Pittsburgh audiences are able to build a level of familiarity with the work of living composers whose work they might otherwise encounter only once or twice. Past Composers of the Year have included Rodion Shchedrin, Krzysztof Penderecki, Michael Hersch, Christopher Rouse, Jennifer Higdon, and Christopher Theofanidis.

Manfred Honeck was appointed the Music Director Designate of the Pittsburgh Symphony in January 2007. He begins his tenure with the PSO in September 2008.