



Leonard Slatkin

Internationally recognised American conductor Leonard Slatkin is Music Director of the National Symphony Orchestra, Principal Guest Conductor of the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra and Principal Guest Conductor of the Los Angeles Philharmonic Orchestra at the Hollywood Bowl. His performances throughout North America, Europe and the Far East have been distinguished by imaginative programming and highly praised interpretations of both the standard and contemporary symphonic repertoire.

Following seventeen years as Music Director of the Saint Louis Symphony Orchestra (1979-1996), Leonard Slatkin was named Conductor Laureate. He has also served as Festival Director of the Cleveland Orchestra's Blossom Festival (1990-99), Principal Guest Conductor of the Philharmonia Orchestra (1997-2000) and Chief Conductor of the BBC Symphony Orchestra (2000-2004). He assumed the position of Music Director of Washington's National Symphony Orchestra in 1996. His tenure has included highly acclaimed European, Asian and US tours, a Grammy for Best Classical Recording, the foundation of the National Conducting Institute and the National Medal of the Arts, the nation's highest honour for a performing artist.

Leonard Slatkin has made regular appearances with virtually every major international orchestra, including the New York Philharmonic, Berlin Philharmonic, Chicago Symphony, Concertgebouw Orchestra of Amsterdam and Boston Symphony orchestras, as well as many others. His performances of opera have taken him to leading opera companies in the USA and around the world, including the Metropolitan Opera, Lyric Opera of Chicago, Washington National Opera and Vienna State Opera.

Leonard Slatkin has always had a special relationship with the United Kingdom and his term as Chief Conductor of the BBC's flagship orchestra, the BBC Symphony Orchestra, included four 'Last Night of the Proms' broadcast worldwide, several critically acclaimed television programmes and a series of discs for Chandos. He was appointed Principal Guest Conductor of the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra in November 2005 and recent and forthcoming plans include tours to Germany, Spain and Egypt as well as several recordings and a series of concerts in London and around the UK.

He also conducts regularly elsewhere in Europe and during the next two seasons he will appear with the Deutsches Symphonie Orchester Berlin, Leipzig Gewandhaus, Vienna Symphony Orchestra and the Orchestre Philharmonique de Radio France and conduct the major orchestras in Milan, Rotterdam, Geneva, Copenhagen, Stockholm, Barcelona and Madrid.

Leonard Slatkin's more than 100 recordings have been recognised with five Grammy awards and more than fifty other Grammy nominations. He has recorded with the National Symphony, Saint Louis Symphony, Philharmonia, London Philharmonic, BBC Symphony, London Symphony and Bayerischer Rundfunk orchestras.

Born in Los Angeles to a distinguished musical family, his parents were the conductor-violinist Felix Slatkin and cellist Eleanor Aller, founding members of the famed Hollywood String Quartet, Leonard Slatkin began his musical studies on the violin and piano before turning to conducting. He is married to soprano Linda Hohenfeld, and they have one son, Daniel.

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