



## HISTORY OF THE PITTSBURGH SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

For more than 118 years, the Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra has been an essential part of Pittsburgh's cultural landscape. The Pittsburgh Symphony, known for its artistic excellence, is credited with a rich history of the world's finest conductors and musicians, and a strong commitment to the Pittsburgh region and its citizens. This tradition was furthered in fall 2008, when Austrian conductor Manfred Honeck assumed the position of music director with the Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra.

Heading the list of internationally recognized conductors to have led the Pittsburgh Symphony is Victor Herbert, music director between 1898 and 1904, who influenced the early development of the symphony. Preceding Herbert was Frederic Archer (1896-1899), the first Pittsburgh Orchestra conductor. The symphony's solidification as an American institution took place in the late 1930s under the direction of Maestro Otto Klemperer. Conductors prior to Klemperer were Emil Paur (1904-1910), Elias Breeskin (1926-1930) and Antonio Modarelli (1930-1937). From 1938 to 1948, under the dynamic directorship of Fritz Reiner, the Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra embarked on a new phase of its history, making its first international tour and its first commercial recording.

The PSO's 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 his relationship with the PSO in 1984 as music consultant but later served as a highly regarded music director from 1988 to 1996. As music director from 1997 to 2004, Mariss Jansons furthered the artistic growth of the orchestra, and upon his departure, the PSO created an innovative leadership model with Artistic Advisor Sir Andrew Davis, Principal Guest Conductor Yan Pascal Tortelier and Endowed Guest Conductor Chair Marek Janowski. These three conductors formed the primary artistic leadership for the orchestra until January 2007, when the PSO selected Honeck to take the reins at the start of the 2008-2009 season. In February 2012, Honeck agreed to extend his contract with the PSO through the 2019-2020 season.

With a long and distinguished history of touring both domestically and overseas since 1900, the Pittsburgh Symphony continues to be critically acclaimed as one of the world's greatest orchestras. With more than 36 international tours, including 20 European tours, eight trips to the Far East, and two to South America, a Far East Tour in 2002 marked first-time concerts for the Orchestra in Kuala Lumpur and Australia. The Pittsburgh Symphony was the first American orchestra to perform, conducted by Sir Gilbert Levine, at the Vatican in



January 2004 for the late Pope John Paul II, as part of the Pontiff's Silver Jubilee celebration. In May 2009, the symphony embarked on a four-concert tour of Asia, a trip which included debut performances in Shanghai, China and Kaohsiung, Taiwan, in addition to the first stop in Beijing, China since 1987. Each year since 2009, the Pittsburgh Symphony has toured Europe, including Spain, Germany, France, Austria, Romania and many others, with notable appearances at the BBC Proms at the Royal Albert Hall in London in 2011, a week-long residency in Vienna's Musikverein in 2012 and a debut performance in Bucharest at the George Enescu Festival in 2013. International touring is made possible by the Hillman Endowment for International Performances.

Since 2006, the Pittsburgh Symphony has partnered with the Allegheny Conference on Community Development and its marketing affiliate, the Pittsburgh Regional Alliance, to use international tours to open doors for economic development and foreign direct investment discussions. The partnership, unique among American orchestras, has resulted in numerous investments in the Pittsburgh region.

The symphony 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 frequent performances at Carnegie Hall in New York and the Kennedy Center in Washington, D.C. In 2014, the Symphony will perform in the final concert of the Spring for Music Festival at Carnegie Hall in May and will play a two-concert series at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill in September.

The Pittsburgh Symphony has a long and illustrious history in the areas of recordings and radio concerts. As early as 1936, the symphony broadcast coast-to-coast, receiving increased national attention in 1982 through network radio broadcasts on Public Radio International. The PRI series is produced by Classical WQED-FM 89.3 in Pittsburgh and is made possible by the musicians of the Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra.

With a deep-rooted commitment to serving its community, the Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra has a long history of education and community-involvement. From its Fiddlesticks Family Concerts Presented by Macy's, Schooltime and PNC Tiny Tots series, which expose young children to classical music, to its innovative Audience of the Future program, which explores the process of programming, marketing and presenting a classical concert with teenagers, the Pittsburgh Symphony is committed to introducing students to and immersing them in the world of classical music. Along with educational concerts, the Pittsburgh Symphony takes music into hospitals and veterans organizations to show the therapeutic power of music in the healing and wellness process through its Music & Wellness program.

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. Some of the symphony's latest recordings include Tchaikovsky's Symphony No. 5, and Mahler's 1st, 3rd, 4th and 5th symphonies, part of a projected complete cycle of Mahler symphonies with Honeck on the Exton label, as well as a complete Brahms cycle with Guest Conductor Marek Janowski for the PentaTone label. The PSO's Exton recording of Gustav Mahler's Symphony No. 4, conducted by Honeck and featuring soprano Sunhae Im, won a prestigious 2012 International Classical Music Award (ICMA) for symphonic music. A new relationship with Reference Recordings began in 2013, and the first release on its Fresh! Label — "Strauss," a collection of Strauss' most popular tone poems — was met with rave reviews.

For more information about the Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra, please visit [pittsburghsymphony.org](http://pittsburghsymphony.org).

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