



Hugh Wolff

CONDUCTOR

Three-time Grammy-nominated conductor Hugh Wolff is known as a **musical firebrand**, with “**an effortlessly polished sound, shaping his interpretations with impeccable taste**” (The New York Times). His delivery of compelling interpretations and energetic performances has gained great critical acclaim from critics across the world, including: “**Hugh Wolff stays always at the heart of the music – by the end he held the whole auditorium in suspended silence**” (The Washington Post).

Wolff currently serves as **Chief Conductor** of the **Belgian National Orchestra** (2017–present). Other positions held during the course of his illustrious career have included **Principal Conductor** of the **HR-Sinfonieorchester Frankfurt** (1997–2006), **Principal Conductor & Music Director** of the **Saint Paul Chamber Orchestra** (1998–2000), **Music Director** of **Grant Park Music Festival Chicago** (1994–1997), and **Music Director** of the **New Jersey Symphony Orchestra** (1986–1993). He maintains a close working relationship with these institutions – touring Europe and the Far East, and appearing at the Salzburg Festival with HR-Sinfonieorchester, and recording more than 20 discs, as well as touring extensively, with the SPCO.

Born in Paris to American parents, Wolff spent his early years in London and Washington DC, studying piano with **Leon Fleisher**, and composition with **George Crumb**. After graduating from **Harvard**, Wolff won a fellowship to study in Paris – undertaking studies in conducting with **Charles Bruck**, and in composition with **Olivier Messiaen**. He then returned to the United States to continue piano studies with Fleisher at the **Peabody Institute**, before beginning his professional conducting career in 1979 – as **Associate Conductor** of the **National Symphony Orchestra** under **Mstislav Rostropovich**.

Since then, as a guest conductor Wolff has gone on to appear with all the major American orchestras, including the **Boston Symphony**, **Chicago Symphony**, the **Cleveland Orchestra**, **Los Angeles Philharmonic**, **New York Philharmonic**, the **Philadelphia Orchestra**, and the **San Francisco Symphony Orchestra**. He is also works frequently at such summer festivals as **Aspen**, **Ravinia**, and **Tanglewood**. Wolff is also in high demand throughout Europe, working regularly with such leading orchestras as the **Czech Philharmonic**, **Leipzig Gewandhaus**, **London Symphony**, **Orchestre National de France**, **Orchestre National de Lyon**, the **Philharmonia Orchestra**, **Rundfunk-Sinfonieorchester Berlin**, and the **Symphonieorchester des Bayerischen Rundfunks**.

Recent and forthcoming highlights include performances with the **Atlanta Symphony**, **Dortmund Philharmoniker**, **Düsseldorfer Symphoniker**, the **Minnesota Orchestra**, **Netherlands Philharmonic**, **New Japan Philharmonic**, **NSO Washington**, **Orchestre de Chambre de Lausanne**, **Seoul Philharmonic**, and the **Tonkünstler-Orchester**.

Wolff’s discography is vast, and includes a complete set of Beethoven symphonies (with the HR-Sinfonieorchester Frankfurt), music from the Baroque to the present days (with the Saint Paul Chamber Orchestra). A champion of contemporary works, Wolff has recorded the music of such leading composers as **John Corigliano**, **Brett Dean**, **John Harbison**, **Aaron Jay Kernis** and **Mark-Anthony Turnage**. Artists with whom he has recorded include such luminaries as **Joshua Bell**, **Hilary Hahn**, **Jennifer Larmore**, **Yo-Yo Ma**, **Edgar Meyer**, **Mstislav Rostropovich**, and **Jean-Yves Thibaudet**, as well as Jazz guitarist **John Scofield**.

In addition to his performance career, Hugh Wolff is passionate about passing knowledge on to the leading lights of the next generation. As such, he holds the ‘**Stanford and Norma Jean Calderwood Director of Orchestras**’ Chair at the **New England Conservatory**, **Boston**, where he is in charge of the four orchestras and teaches graduate students the art of orchestral conducting.

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