

## LEONARD SLATKIN

Principal Guest Conductor of the Los Angeles Philharmonic at the Hollywood Bowl

Leonard Slatkin combines the roles of internationally celebrated conductor, staunch advocate for music education, and champion of American music and musicians.

His 60<sup>th</sup> birthday – being celebrated internationally – provides the focus for the launch of his ninth season as Music Director of the National Symphony Orchestra.

Throughout his career, he has been praised by critics and audiences around the world for his imaginative programming and interpretations of a vast range of repertoire, and those musical aspects have been particularly prominent in his years with the National Symphony. His tenure has included highly lauded European, Asian, and US tours; numerous national broadcasts; and intriguing themed festivals – among them *Soundtracks* and *Journey to America* -- drawing national attention. Other distinctions include a White House celebration honoring the Orchestra and Mr. Slatkin for advocacy of America's artistic heritage; a Grammy for Best Classical Recording, awards for programming, and the National Medal of the Arts, the nation's highest honor for a performing artist.

Slatkin has made regular appearances over the last two decades with virtually all the major international orchestras and opera companies, including the New York and Berlin Philharmonics, Cleveland Orchestra, and Amsterdam Concertgebouw, as well as the Metropolitan Opera and the Vienna Staatsoper. He is conductor laureate of the Saint Louis Symphony, following his highly successful 17-year music directorship and has just completed his tenure as Chief Conductor of the BBC Symphony Orchestra. Through his positions in Saint Louis and with the National Symphony, he has already made enduring contributions to American orchestral life.

Slatkin's discography includes more than 100 recordings recognized with five Grammy Awards and more than 50 other Grammy nominations.

Slatkin is also extremely active as a broadcaster on musical topics. During his career he has had his own radio program, his own television program, and has been a guest commentator on NPR's *Performance Today*. Recently he has completed a television series for the BBC about the influx of composers from Europe to Hollywood.

Throughout his career, Slatkin has demonstrated a continuing commitment to arts education and to reaching diverse audiences, reflected in his work with student orchestras at various conservatories and across the country through the National Symphony Orchestra American Residencies program. He has participated in benefit performances for youth orchestras in the Washington area and beyond. His advocacy of the D.C. Youth Orchestra enabled 130 children to continue public music education.

Slatkin is also the founder and director of the National Conducting Institute, a groundbreaking

program that assists conductors in making the transition from leading part-time or academic orchestras to working with full-time major symphony orchestras.

In addition to his recording prizes and ASCAP citations, Slatkin has received numerous honorary doctorates, including one from his alma mater, The Juilliard School. Additional honors have been bestowed both for his artistic contributions and for his work in the community.

Slatkin began his musical studies on the violin. Born in Los Angeles into a distinguished musical family, his parents were conductor-violinist Felix Slatkin and cellist Eleanor Aller, founding members of the famed Hollywood String Quartet. Slatkin studied conducting with his father and continued with Walter Susskind at Aspen and Jean Morel at The Juilliard School. He is married to soprano Linda Hohenfeld, and they have one son, Daniel.

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