

CLASSICAL

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mariss jansons
pittsburgh symphony orchestra

a final farewell



Nothing short of extraordinary is how critics have described Mariss Jansons at the artistic helm of the Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra since 1997. Audiences whether at the Orchestra's home in Pittsburgh Symphony Heinz Hall, in New Carnegie Hall or on the stages of the grand concert halls of Europe, Mariss has captured the hearts of millions of listeners everywhere and brought audiences from all corners of the globe to his feet around the globe.

mariss jansons

Maestro Jansons' vital presence in Pittsburgh has earned him the distinction of being named Pittsburgh Post-Gazette's one of Pittsburgh's top 10 cultural leaders. Pittsburgh Tribune-Review singled Mariss Jansons out as one of the individuals who drive the success of the arts in Pittsburgh. His cultural life of Pittsburgh was further recognized by the city when he was given a 1998 Harry Award for Excellence in the Arts.

In the 2002-03 season, Mariss Jansons and the Pittsburgh Symphony made two tours to Europe: first a residency tour in April to Madrid, Valencia, Amsterdam and London, about which *Vladimir Prokofiev* wrote, "With this top American orchestra, the likeable Maestro has also achieved his goal of combining cultivated European style with American perfection. Conductors gave the Barbican performance five stars."

At the Barbican, both works were performed with an almost shocking intensity, a product of Jansons' dramatic control and athletic energy, and the Pittsburgh Symphony's mix of American bravura with European warmth, a quality that makes them the best orchestra in the U.S. The August festival tour included performances at the Salzburg Festival, Salzburger Festspiele, and Ludwigsburg Schlossfestspiele. The Barbican concerts received standing ovations and the audience exclaimed: "Now beat this!" Concerts do not come much more brilliant than the pair given by the Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra under Mariss Jansons. If the great orchestras of Berlin and Vienna were listening in, they must have wondered whether their own visits to the Barbican would not be an anti-climax. The 2002 Far East Tour marked first-time appearances in Kuala Lumpur and Australia and the second appearance in Japan by Jansons and the Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra. Maestro Jansons and the Orchestra performed their seventh Carnegie Hall concert in March.

Mariss Jansons is recognized as one of the most distinguished musicians of his generation. He has become known to audiences worldwide through his celebrated recordings, concert performances and touring, as well as numerous radio and television appearances.

Beginning in 2003, Mariss Jansons became Music Director of the Bavarian State Symphony Orchestra, and in 2004, Principal Conductor of the Royal Concertgebouw Orchestra in Amsterdam. He was Music Director of the Oslo Philharmonic Orchestra from 1979 to 2000, and has served as Associate Principal Conductor of the Petersburg Philharmonic Orchestra and as Principal Guest Conductor of the Pittsburgh Philharmonic Orchestra.

Mariss Jansons was born in Riga, Latvia in 1943, son of the renowned conductor Arvid Jansons. He studied violin, piano and conducting at the Leningrad Conservatory from which he graduated with honors. In 1969 he continued his training in Berlin with Hans Swarowsky and in Salzburg with Herbert von Karajan. Two years later

International Herbert von Karajan Foundation Competition in Berlin.

Mariss Jansons' collaboration with the St. Petersburg Philharmonic (formerly Leningrad Philharmonic) Orchestra dates back to 1973 when Evgeny Mravinsky, Director at the time, invited Mr. Jansons to assist him as Associate Conductor. Jansons has conducted the orchestra over a long period on many of its successful recordings across the world.

In the 20 years under Jansons' leadership, the Oslo Philharmonic Orchestra has grown to international stature. Together they have toured the major music venues in Europe, America and Japan, including the Salzburg and Lucerne Festivals, Edinburgh Festival, BBC Proms, the Barbican Centre and Royal Festival Hall in London, the Vienna Musikverein, the Royal Concertgebouw, New York's Lincoln Center, Carnegie Hall, and Suntory Hall in Tokyo. Over the years they have received glowing reviews for their many recordings on both the EMI and Chandos labels.

Mariss Jansons has appeared with many of the world's great orchestras including the Boston Symphony, the Chicago Symphony, the Cleveland and Philadelphia Symphonies, the New York Philharmonic, the Berlin Philharmonic, Vienna Philharmonic, Concertgebouw, Bayerischer Rundfunk, Tonhalle, Israel Philharmonic, London Symphony, the London Philharmonic and the Philharmonia Orchestra. He also conducts each year at the Salzburg Summer Festival.

Released in 2001 by EMI, the Shostakovich Symphony No. 8 is the first recording of this work with the Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra and Mariss Jansons. The Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra performs music of Rodion Shchedrin, conducted by Jansons.



released by Pittsburgh Symphony Curtain Call in 2002. Jansons' discography includes many recordings for EMI, Chandos and Simax includes works by Berlioz, Dvořák, Bartók, Mahler, Prokofiev, Rachmaninoff, Ravel, Respighi, Shostakovich, Scriabin, Stravinsky, Tchaikovsky, Wagner, Kurt Weill, Brahms and Strauss. In addition to many renowned recordings with the Oslo Philharmonic, Jansons has also recorded with the Berlin and Vienna philharmonic orchestras, Royal Concertgebouw, Philadelphia Orchestra and the London Philharmonic. Several of his recordings have received

national awards: Shostakovich's Symphony No. 7 with the Leningrad Philharmonic won an Edison Award in 1989; Beethoven's Ninth Symphony with the Royal Concertgebouw Orchestra won the coveted Dutch Luister Award. His Symphony No. 5 with the Oslo Philharmonic received a Penguin Award and Honneger's Symphonies Nos. 2 and 3 won the Grand Prix de Disque. In 2003, he was awarded the Toblach Prize for the best Mahler recording of the year Mahler's First and Second Symphonies with the Oslo Philharmonic.

In 1995, King Harald V of Norway conferred on Mariss Jansons the honor of Commander with Star of the Royal Norwegian Order of Merit, for his work and achievements with the Oslo Philharmonic, the highest such honor presented to any Norwegian descent. Mr. Jansons also has been awarded the prestigious Norwegian Culture Prize of Anders Jahre. In 1999 he was conferred an Honorary Membership of the Royal Academy of Music in London, and in June 2001, Mr. Jansons was elected Honorary Member of the Gesellschaft der Musikfreunde in Vienna, the highest honor awarded in Austria. In 2003 he was named Artistic Director of the Mahler Competition in London.

Mariss Jansons is Professor of Conducting at the St. Petersburg Conservatory and holds the Pittsburgh Symphony's Virgil I. Heinz Music Director Endowed Chair.



1 Former Steeler Franco Harris, a PSO fan, presents Mariss with a pair of cufflinks and an autographed football.

May 12, 2000



2 Opening Night of Mariss Jansons' inaugural season.

September 19, 1997

3 Fans line up at Suntory Hall in Tokyo to congratulate Mariss on a breathtaking performance.

February 24, 2002

