KünstlerSekretariat am Gasteig oHG

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Biography - Manfred Honeck, Conductor

- Music Director Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra
- Principal Conductor Designate Philharmonia Orchestra London
- Festival Director Designate San Francisco Symphony
- Honorary Conductor Bamberger Symphoniker

Manfred Honeck is widely regarded as one of the world's leading conductors, renowned for his distinctive and revelatory interpretations that have garnered international acclaim. As Music Director of the Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra, where he is about to enter his 19th season, he continues to shape the orchestra's artistic identity with a deep sense of purpose and passion. His tenure, recently extended through the 2032-2033 season, has seen the orchestra flourish both artistically and as a cultural ambassador for the city of Pittsburgh. Celebrated at home and abroad, guest appearances under his leadership include Carnegie Hall and Lincoln Center in New York, as well as the major venues of Europe and leading festivals such as the BBC Proms, Salzburg Festival, Musikfest Berlin, Lucerne Festival, Rheingau Music Festival, and Grafenegg Festival.

Manfred Honeck's successful tenure in Pittsburgh is extensively documented by a series of recordings on the Reference Recordings label, featuring works by Beethoven, Brahms, Bruckner, Shostakovich, Strauss, Tchaikovsky, and others. They have received widespread critical acclaim and multiple GRAMMY® nominations, including a win for "Best Orchestral Performance" in 2018. The latest album, Dvořák's Symphony No. 9 paired with Carlos Simon's *Black American Dances*, was released in July 2026.

Beginning with the 2028–29 season, he will become the seventh Principal Conductor of the Philharmonia Orchestra in London, which will serve as his artistic anchor in Europe. Across the Atlantic, he will also take on the role of Festival Director of the San Francisco Symphony, starting that same season with a five-year term to create his own annual, multi-week festival exploring universal elements of the human experience.

Born in Austria, Manfred Honeck completed his musical training at the University of Music in Vienna. His many years of experience as a member of the viola section in the Vienna Philharmonic and Vienna State Opera Orchestra have had a lasting influence on his work as a conductor, and his art of interpretation is rooted in a desire to venture deep beneath the surface of the music. He began his conducting career as an assistant to Claudio Abbado and as director of the Vienna Jeunesse Orchestra. Subsequently, he was engaged by the Zurich Opera House, where he was awarded the European Conducting Prize in 1993. He has since served as one of three principal conductors of the MDR Symphony Orchestra Leipzig, as Music Director of the Norwegian National Opera, Principal Guest Conductor of the Oslo Philharmonic Orchestra and Czech Philharmonic Orchestra, and Chief Conductor of the

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Swedish Radio Symphony Orchestra in Stockholm. In 2023, he was appointed Honorary Conductor by the Bamberg Symphony Orchestra, following decades of close collaboration.

Manfred Honeck also enjoys a distinguished profile as an opera conductor. In his four seasons as General Music Director of the Staatsoper Stuttgart, he conducted premieres of operas by Berlioz, Mozart, Poulenc, Strauss, Verdi, and Wagner. He has also appeared as guest at leading houses such as Semperoper Dresden, Komische Oper Berlin, Théâtre de la Monnaie in Brussels, Royal Opera of Copenhagen, and the Salzburg Festival. In 2020, Beethoven's anniversary year, he conducted a new staging of *Fidelio* (1806 version) at the Theater an der Wien. In autumn 2022, he made his much-acclaimed debut at the Metropolitan Opera in New York, leading a revival of Mozart's Most recently, he returned to the Salzburg Festival in summer 2026, conducting *Ariadne auf Naxos* with the Vienna Philharmonic.

Beyond the podium, Manfred Honeck has created a series of symphonic suites, including Janáček's *Jenůfa,* Strauss's *Elektra,* Dvořák's *Rusalka* as well as Puccini's *Turandot* which he regularly performs around the globe. The most recent arrangement, of Strauss's *Arabella,* was premiered by the Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra in 2025.

As a guest conductor, Manfred Honeck is a regular presence with all leading international orchestras, including Bavarian Radio Symphony Orchestra, Berlin Philharmonic Orchestra, Gewandhausorchester Leipzig, Staatskapelle Dresden, Tonhalle-Orchester Zürich, Royal Concertgebouw Orchestra, London Symphony Orchestra, Orchestre de Paris, Accademia di Santa Cecilia Rome and the Vienna Philharmonic. In the United States, he has conducted all major orchestras from New York to San Francisco. He has also been Artistic Director of the International Concerts Wolfegg in Germany for over three decades.

In summer 2026, he will return to the Salzburg Festival, conducting Ariadne auf Naxos with the Vienna Philharmonic. He will also lead the Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra on its festival tour through Europe which includes appearances in Salzburg, Lucerne, Amsterdam, Hamburg, and the season opening of the Vienna Konzerthaus. In the 2026-27 season, he will commemorate the 200th anniversary of Ludwig van Beethoven's death with special programs and a new commission from Jüri Reinvere, to be presented worldwide.

Manfred Honeck holds honorary doctorates from several universities in the United States and was awarded the honorary title of Professor by the Austrian Federal President. In 2018, the jury of the International Classical Music Awards declared him "Artist of the Year". In 2026, he was awarded the Julio Kilenyi Medal by the American Bruckner Society, an honour bestowed on distinguished interpreters of Bruckner.

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