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Yuval Waldman, Music Director



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Biography

Violinist and conductor Yuval Waldman has been described as “brilliant” (Musical America) and “spectacular” (The New York Times). Born in Russia, Waldman played his first public performance at the age of 8. He was educated in Israel, Europe and the United States, after which he made his New York debut on the International Series at Carnegie Hall, Jeunesse Musicales.

Maestro Waldman is a versatile performer. He has earned acclaim both for his playing of the standard repertory and for his thoughtful and stylish interpretations of Baroque music. He has also championed rarely performed nineteenth century masterpieces and commissioned or premiered works by contemporary American and Israeli composers.

Waldman has appeared as a violin soloist with dozens of prominent orchestras in the United States, Canada, Europe and Israel and given recitals at Carnegie Hall, Lincoln Center, The Kennedy Center, Wigmore Hall in London and Concertgebouw in Amsterdam. He has performed with such artists as Isaac Stern, Pinchas Zukerman, Jean-Pierre Rampal, Maureen Forrester and Henrik Szerngy. He is the first violinist in the acclaimed Kinor String Quartet and a winner of the America-Israel Cultural Foundation Prize and the Distinguished First Prize at the Conservatory of Geneva. He has recorded on the Angel, Newport Classics, Omega Classica, CRI, Musique International and Musical Heritage Society labels.

Maestro Waldman’s career as a conductor includes performances and recordings with several of the orchestras listed above, as well as the New American Chamber Orchestra, the Midatlantic Chamber Orchestra; the Philadelphia Chamber Orchestra and the Cologne Opera. He celebrated the fiftieth anniversary of the founding of Israel in Moscow and conducted the memorial concert on the steps of Congress on September 11, 2002. He was the founding music director of the Madeira Bach Festival, the Jefferson Music Festival in Washington D.C., the Opus Berkshire Festival in Massachusetts and the Benedictine Millenium Festival in Rome. He has served as director of the World Bank Mozart Festival and the Midatlantic Chamber Orchestra.

As a teacher, Maestro Waldman served as Chairman of the Strings Department at the State University of New York at Purchase, and is on the faculty of Summertrios and the Waterville Valley Music Center. He gives master classes all over the world, most recently at Eastern European University in Izhevsk, Russia; Armaty, Kazakhstan; and at the University for Science and the Arts (USAO) in Chicasha, Oklahoma.

In 2005, Maestro Waldman founded Music Bridges International, Inc., to foster cross-cultural music exchange programs that feature the music of different countries. Under the Music Bridges banner, he organized the successful Young Artists Strings Competition at the “Tchaikovsky’s Homeland” Center in Izhevsk/Votkinsk, Russia. Bridge is presently working on exchanges with Kazakhstan, Switzerland and the Czech Republic.

During 2007, Maestro Waldman will, among other things, concertize twice at Carnegie Hall (where he will premiere works by jazz great Dick Hyman and Swiss-American composer Johannes Somary), make his third recording with the St. Petersburg Philharmonic, appear at the Tchaikovsky Festival in Russia and be artist-in-residence at USAO. This year will also see the release of “Beethoven: Known and Unknown,” a recording made in 2006 with the St. Petersburg Philharmonic that features (under his baton) world premiere recordings of two “lost” works by Beethoven (the Overture from the unfinished opera Macbeth and a movement of the Oboe Concerto), as well as an exciting interpretation of the Fifth Symphony and Waldman’s rendition (as soloist) of the Romance for Violin and Orchestra.

Critical Acclaim

THE NEW YORK TIMES: "Expressive sincerity and sheer communicative warmth...An eloquent tribute to Mr. Waldman's virtuosity was the spontaneous chorus of bravos..."

THE WASHINGTON POST: "...Waldman rightly stole the spotlight. He is an accomplished violinist, capable of creating some perfectly lovely and seamless lines, and his musicianship and overall intelligent and thoughtful understanding of the music are an enormous plus."

CHRISTIAN SCIENCE MONITOR: "Refined and resonant sound..."

GAZETTE, CORAL GABLES: "Waldman gave a searing performance of the demanding violin writing...he played with glowing tone and fiery virtuosity...[He] is deeply probing artist who, generally, eschews violinist fireworks for perceptive musicality."

LEDGER STAR, NORFOLK: "He gave a warm and impassioned performance."

LE COURIER, GENEVA: "Beautiful sounds, exceptional –bow arm, impeccable technique...and interesting and sensitive personality..."

MA'ARIV, TEL-AVIV: "Unusually warm and singing tone, an excellent technique, and rich romantic imagination..."

IL MATINO, ROME: "Secure and brilliant technique...and extraordinary variety of sound..."

HET PAROOL, AMSTERDAM: "Yuval Waldman proved himself to be an expert violinist..."

BUSINESS AND GOVERNMENT, Almaty, Kazakhstan: "Waldman is an overwhelming violinist and conductor...he gets something from an orchestra in a few hours that many conductors get only after working with them for years...one might say that he is a missionary of world music...when he plays the notes [they] touch the human essence."

KAZAKH PRAVDA, Almaty, Kazakhstan: "You can call Yuval Waldman the master of composing programs...The artist showed unusual ability to understand other musical worlds...he played like he had played [Kazakh] music all his life, with great individuality and understanding...deafening applause..."

THE GAZETTE, MONTREAL: "Sensitive playing...fascinating recital..."

Curriculum Vitae

SOLO VIOLINIST

Soloist with orchestras in the United States, Canada, Europe and Israel, including Orchestre de la Suisse Romande, the Concertgebouw, Bavarian Radio Orchestra, Kansas City Philharmonic, Detroit Symphony, Miami Philharmonic, Toronto Chamber Orchestra, Hartford Chamber Orchestra, Israel Philharmonic, National Polish Radio and Television Orchestra, St. Petersburg Philharmonic, Russian State Orchestra, Cape Town Symphony, among others.

Recital appearances throughout the United States, Canada, Europe, Israel, South America and Africa, including Carnegie Hall, Lincoln Center, The Kennedy Center, Wigmore Hall in London and Concertgebouw Hall in Amsterdam.

Radio and television appearances throughout the United States, Canada, Europe, Israel, South America and Africa.

Recordings: Angel Records, Newport Classics, Omega Classica Records, CRI Records, Musical Heritage Society, Musique International.

Festivals: Casals Festival (Puerto Rico), Mostly Mozart Festival (New York City), St. Petersburg Spring Festival (Russia), Israel Festival (Tel Aviv), Algarve Music Festival (Portugal), Ives Music Festival (Danbury CT) and others.

CHAMBER MUSIC

Artistic Director, Emelin Chamber Music Society, Mamoroneck NY

Artistic Director, Round Hill Chamber Players, Fairfield CT

Member: Kinor String Quartet, Contrasts Trio, Ives Trio, Chamber Music Plus, Kansas City Chamber Soloists, Interaction Artists. Guest appearances with various chamber groups in the US, Europe and Israel.

ACADEMIC POSITIONS AND EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITIES

2007

Visiting Professor East European University, Izevsk, Russia

1998-present

Faculty Summertrios, Pennsylvania

2002- 2005

Faculty Interlachen Summer Program, Interlachen, Michigan

1991-1994

Head of String Department, SUNY, Purchase NY

Coordinated activities of the department: auditions, student concerts, special events

Responsible for expansion of string faculty and increased student recruiting.

Guest conductor Purchase Orchestra

1981-1994

Associate Professor of Music, SUNY, Purchase NY

Taught violin, viola and chamber music classes.

Conducted weekly violin master classes and classes in solo and orchestral string literature

1996

Visiting Conductor, St. Mary College, Maryland

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1984

Visiting Professor of Conducting, University of Wisconsin

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1976 – present

Master classes and workshops in the United States, Europe and Israel, California Music Center, University of Wisconsin,

University of Kansas, Rubin Academy of Music in Jerusalem,

Chopin Academy of Music in Warsaw, Poland, etc.

ORCHESTRAL LEADER

Concertmaster: Kansas City Philharmonic; St. Luke's Chamber Orchestra, New York City; Amor Artis Orchestra, New York City; Ives Festival Orchestra, Danbury, CT; Bridgeport Symphony, Bridgeport, CT

Principal Violin: Mostly Mozart Festival Orchestra, New York City

Associate Concertmaster: Brooklyn Philharmonic

CONDUCTOR AND MUSIC DIRECTOR

1996-present

Music Director New American Chamber Orchestra, New York City.

Appearances at Lincoln Center and Carnegie Hall, US

tours, residence in Festival of the Berkshires.

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2004-present

Conductor

St. Petersburg Philharmonic, Russia. "Music Bridges

St. Petersburg-New York". Five year project recording

American music with St. Petersburg Philharmonic for

Albany and Centaur Records.

2000-present
Conductor Philadelphia Chamber Orchestra
Summertrios Concerto Project

2001-2004
Principal Conductor
Massapequa Philharmonic Orchestra, Long Island, NY

1985-1997
Co-founder
Mid-Atlantic Chamber Orchestra, Washington, DC

1986-1995
Music Director
Brooklyn Philharmonic Youth Concerts, New York City

1987-1989
Music Director
Cathedral Chamber Orchestra, New York City.

1980-1986
Music Director
Madeira Bach Festival Orchestra, Madiera, Portugal

1980-1981
Asst. Conductor
Kansas City Philharmonic, Kansas City, MO

GUEST CONDUCTOR

Symphonic:

St. Petersburg Philharmonic; Philadelphia Concerto Soloists; Russian State Orchestra; Moscow Chamber Soloists; New Portuguese Orchestra; Gulbenkian Orchestra (Portugal); Israel Chamber Orchestra; Hartford Chamber Orchestra and others.

Opera:

Cologne Opera (Germany); Cape Town Opera (South Africa) and others

Ballet:

Marc Morris Dance Company, BAM, NYC; Bridgeport Ballet Orchestra, Bridgeport, CT

Choral:

Jefferson Festival Choir, Kennedy Center, Washington DC; Gulbenkian Choir (Portugal); Cappella Choir, Moscow; Shenendoah Choral Society, Virginia, and others.

ORCHESTRAL RECORDINGS – CONDUCTOR

2007 Leap Classics Records, Soloists of St. Petersburg Philharmonic, “Beethoven Lost and Discovered”

2006 Leap Classics Records, Jubilee Recording, St. Petersburg Philharmonic, “Music By Mozart”

2002 Centaur Records, Soloists of St. Petersburg Philharmonic, “Napoli”, music by Steve Perillo

2001 Centaur Records, Russian Festival Orchestra. Orchestral music by American Composers

2000 Benedictinus 2000 Records, Mellennium Philharmonic Orchestra and Choir (Moscow). Liturgical music by Beethoven, Bruckner, Rossini, Faure

1998 Nyana Records, New American Chamber Orchestra, Music by Shostakovich and Tchaikovsky

ARTISTIC DIRECTION

2007-present

Artistic Director . 5B Festival – Bach, Beethoven, Brahms, Bartok, Bernstein – A Festival of Music and Ideas University Of Science and Arts of Oklahoma, Chickasha, Oklahoma

2007-present

Artistic Director
International Conference “Tchaikovsky in Udmurtia and The World” Eastern European University, Izevsk, Russia

2004-present

Artistic Director
Music Bridges International, Inc. International organization for performance and study of new music.

2005-present

Music Director
International Youth Competition “Young Tchaikovsky”
Votkins, Russia (Tchaikovsky’s birthplace)

1986-present

Artistic Director
World Bank Mozart Festival, Washington, DC

2000-present

Music Director
Chamber Music Associates, New York City
Promotion and study of chamber music.

1998-2000

Music Director

Benedictinus 2000, Rome, Italy

Millennium Celebration project, producing over 100 concerts and an historical recording of old and new music.

1998-present

Co-Artistic Director

Opus Berkshire Festival, North Adams, MA

Chamber and orchestral concerts and educational activities in the Berkshires.

1997-present

Co-Artistic Director

Waterville Valley Music Center, Waterville Valley, NH

Chamber music performances and master classes.

1994-1995

Artistic Director

Jefferson Music Festival, Kennedy Center, Washington

DC. Performances and symposiums of music from

Jefferson library in Monticello, VA.

1978-1985

Music Director

International Madera Bach Festival, Madera, Portugal

Performances of vocal and instrumental works by J.S. Bach.

1974-1977 Hebrew Arts School for Music and Dance, New York

City. Director of Special Projects and Adult Division.

PRIZES AND HONORS

Marquis International Who's Who in Performing Arts

National Board of Jewish Music

Winner:

Affiliated Artists Competition, New York City, 1981

Concert Artists Guild Competition, New York City 1970

Carnegie Hall Jeunesses Musicales International Competition, 1969

Special Prize of the Jury, International Violin Competition, Munich, 1969

Premier Prix de Virtuosite, Conservatory of Geneva, 1964

America-Israel Cultural Foundation Fellowship, 1965-70

EDUCATION

Violin: Studies with Isaac Stern (New York), Ivan Galamian (The Juilliard School), Joseph Gingold (Indiana University), Rene Benedetti (Paris Conservatory), Lorand Fenyves (Geneva Conservatory). Master classes with Joseph Szigeti, Nathan Millstein, Henryk Szeryng, Zino Francescatti.

Chamber music: Studies with Robert Mann and Felix Gallimir (The Juilliard School), William Primrose, Janos Starker and Menachem Pressler (Indiana University)

Conducting: Studies with Raphael Kubelik (Rome, Luzerne), Jorge Mester (The Juilliard School), Leonard Bernstein (Tanglewood, MA), William Vaccano (opera conducting at Indiana University, Bloomington, IN)

1967-1970 Post graduate studies at the Juilliard School in New York

1965-1967 Post Graduate studies at Indiana University, Bloomington IN

1965-1965

Graduate Artist's Diploma, Conservatory of Geneva, Switzerland. First prize with distinction (Masters Degree)

1962-1963

Paris Conservatory, France. First prize

1957-1962 Rubin Academy of Music, Tel Aviv, Israel, Artist's Diploma

1953-1956 Professional Music School in Lvov, Ukraine