



JEANNETTE SORRELL, CONDUCTOR & HARPSICHORDIST

“Under the inspired leadership of Jeannette Sorrell, Apollo’s Fire has become one of the pre-eminent period-instrument ensembles, causing one to hear baroque material anew.”

–THE INDEPENDENT, London

Jeannette Sorrell is recognized internationally as one of today’s most creative early-music conductors. She has been credited by the UK’s **BBC MUSIC MAGAZINE** for forging “*a vibrant, life-affirming approach to the re-making of early music.*”

She was one of the youngest students ever accepted to the prestigious conducting courses of the Aspen and the Tanglewood music festivals. She studied conducting under Leonard Bernstein, Roger Norrington and Robert Spano, and harpsichord with Gustav Leonhardt in Amsterdam. She won both First Prize and the Audience Choice Award in the 1991 Spivey International Harpsichord Competition, competing against over 70 harpsichordists from Europe, Israel, the U.S., and the Soviet Union.

Sorrell’s recent guest conducting engagements include the **National Symphony** at the **Kennedy Center** (Handel’s *Messiah*), the **St. Paul Chamber Orchestra**, and the **New World Symphony**. Her 2013 debut with the **Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra** as conductor and soloist in the complete *Brandenburg Concertos* was met with standing ovations every night, and hailed as “*an especially joyous occasion*” (**PITTSBURGH TRIBUNE-REVIEW**). She has also led the Los Angeles Chamber Orchestra, Seattle Symphony, Utah Symphony, the Opera Theatre of St. Louis with the St. Louis Symphony, Handel & Haydn Society (Boston), and the Grand Teton Festival, among others.

Sorrell is the founder and artistic director of Apollo’s Fire, with whom she has built one of the largest audiences of any baroque orchestra in North America. She has led AF in sold-out concerts at **Carnegie Hall**, **London’s BBC Proms** and **London’s Wigmore Hall**, **Madrid’s Royal Theatre** (Teatro Real), the Grand Théâtre de l’Opéra in Bordeaux, the Aldeburgh Festival (UK), the **Tanglewood Festival**, Boston’s Early Music Festival, the **Aspen Music Festival**, the Library of Congress, and the Metropolitan Museum of Art (New York), among others. This year she and the ensemble tour to the UK and Ireland.

Sorrell and Apollo’s Fire have released **26 commercial CDs, of which eight have been bestsellers on the Billboard classical chart**. Her recordings include the complete *Brandenburg Concerti* and harpsichord concerti of Bach, praised by the **LONDON TIMES** as “*a swaggering version... brilliantly played by Sorrell.*” She has also released four discs of Mozart, and was hailed as “*a near-perfect*



Mozartian” by **FANFARE RECORD MAGAZINE**. Other recordings include Bach’s *St. John Passion*, Handel’s *Messiah*, the *Monteverdi Vespers* and four creative crossover projects.

Sorrell has attracted national attention and awards for creative programming. She holds an Artist Diploma from Oberlin Conservatory, an honorary doctorate from Case Western University, two awards from the National Endowment for the Arts for her work on early American music, and an award from the American Musicological Society. Passionate about guiding the next generation of performers, she is the architect of AF’s highly successful Young Artist Apprentice Program, which has produced many of the leading young baroque professionals in the country today.

updated May 2018