

NEW YORK CITY SYMPHONY

Founded in 1926 through the inspiration of New York Municipal Court judge, the Honorable Leopold Prince, the New York City Symphony grew from a small neighborhood ensemble to a 110 member orchestra and in a few short years was presenting concerts throughout the city including performances at Carnegie Hall and the 1939 World's Fair. In 1956 the orchestra became a fully professional ensemble and has since presented numerous concerts throughout the New York metropolitan area as well as concerts in Philadelphia and Washington, D.C.

In 1974 the NYC Symphony came under the patronage of the Rev. Sun Myung Moon's International Cultural Foundation and under its new music director, Thomas Ludwig, began an extensive series of concerts at Lincoln Center, The New York Society for Ethical Culture and Columbia University. In 1980 the orchestra presented two complete performances of Handel's "Messiah" at the Manhattan Center under the direction of Dr. Brian Saunders. Francesco Santelli served as the orchestra's music director from 1982 to 1984.

In 1985 the New York City Symphony began its highly acclaimed concert series at Lincoln Center's Alice Tully Hall under its current music director, David Eaton. The orchestra has also appeared under Mr. Eaton's direction at Carnegie Hall, Lincoln Center's Avery Fisher Hall and Alice Tully Hall, the Apollo Theater, the United Nations, the Manhattan Center, Merkin Hall and the Metropolitan Museum of Art.

In 1988, the orchestra made its first international tour that included four concerts in Japan and an appearance at the Olympic Arts Festival in Seoul, Korea. The orchestra also has performed at Gala performances for corporate organizations including the New York Stock Exchange, Paul Sorvino's American Asthma Foundation and has appeared with the Metropolitan Repertory Ballet and the Universal Ballet Company at Lincoln Center's State Theater.

The NYC Symphony introduced New York audiences to the music of Academy Award winning composer Tan Dun ("Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon") as David Eaton and the orchestra presented four of Tan's works at Lincoln Center in 1988, including the world premieres of Tan's Violin Concerto and Third Symphony.

In its attempt to represent the diversity of its New York base, the orchestra has produced concerts in conjunction with various international embassies, consulates and cultural organizations including those of Venezuela, the People's Republic of China, Ukraine, Turkey, Taiwan, South Korea and the Uptown Chamber of Commerce in Harlem.

The orchestra's chamber ensemble and brass choir has presented numerous concerts in New York, Chicago, San Francisco, Los Angeles, Washington, DC and Connecticut as well as a performance at United Nations in 1998 as part of the U.N.'s 50th Anniversary celebrating the founding of its Non-Governmental Organizations. In 2002 the NYCS Chamber Ensemble performed at the Temple Recital Series in Salt Lake City, Utah. In 2014, members of the orchestra appeared on Saturday Night Live with the Grammy-award winning band Imagine Dragons. The orchestra returned to the United Nations for concerts in 1999, 2011, 2012, 2015 and 2026.

Gifted artists who have appeared with the orchestra include Michala Petri, William Warfield, Shlomo Mintz, Boris Belkin, Aaron Rosand, Kim Kashkashian, Nancy Allen, Robert White, Joseph Flummerfelt, Paul Sorvino, Philip Michael Thomas, Lee Hoiby, Oleh Krysa, Marco Granados, Ky-Mani Marley, Vera Tsu, Yakov Kreisberg, Jamie Peterson, Mzuri Moyo, Laleh Nader, David D'Or, Miyuki Harley, Raoul Joseph, Ning Liang, Joseph and Anthony Paratori, Benal Tanrisever, Richard Fletcher, Julian Milkis, Natalia Khoma, Oxana Yablonskaya, Isabel Ganz, Dora Schwartzberg, Alexander Mishnaevski, Eric Person, Tokiko Richardson, Yoshimi Kadota, Gloria Criscione, the First Avenue Ensemble, Ancestors, Kenny Mohammed and Seiko Lee.