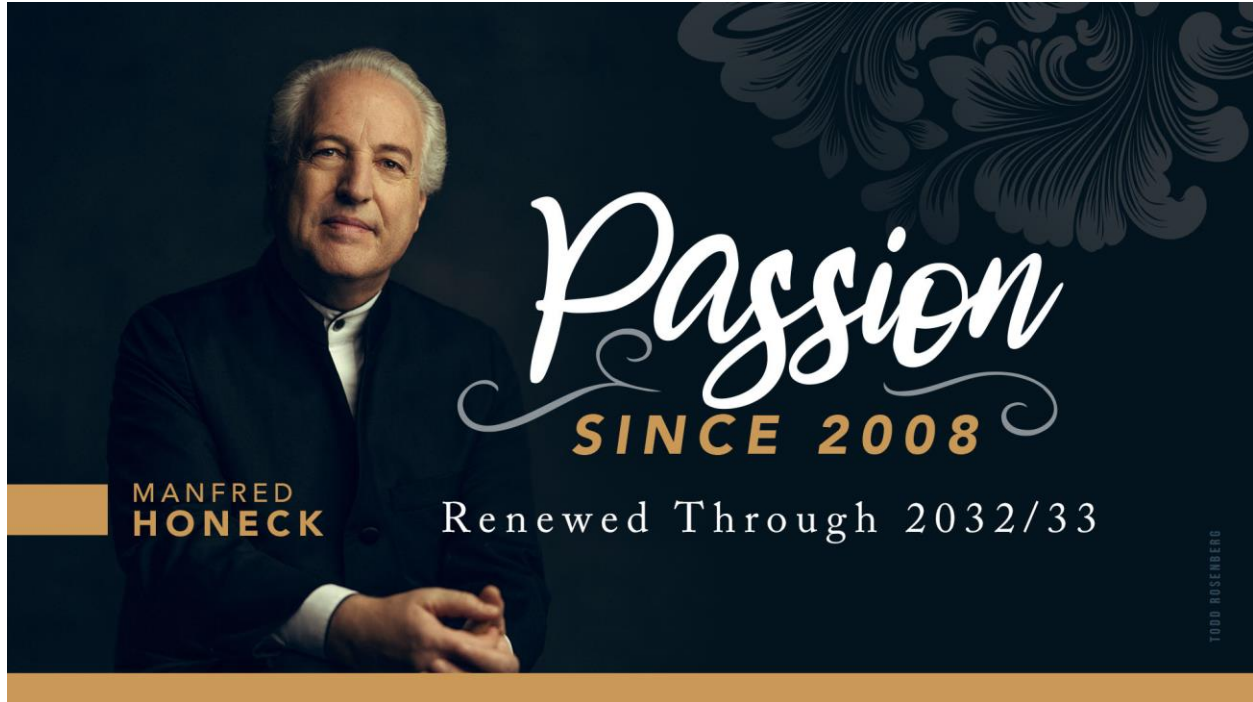


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Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra Renews Music Director Manfred Honeck Through 2032/2033 Season

**Renewal Marks a Historic 25-Year Tenure,
the Longest in Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra's History**

PITTSBURGH – The Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra (PSO) today announced the extension of Music Director Manfred Honeck's contract through the 2032/2033 season, amounting to a 25-year partnership that will make him the longest-serving Music Director in the Orchestra's 131-year history. The extension provides long-term artistic continuity at a time of international recognition for the Symphony.

“From the very beginning of his tenure, Manfred Honeck has inspired this orchestra, our audiences, and our city through an extraordinary devotion to music and an artistic passion that has made an enduring mark on our history,” said Melia Tourangeau, President & CEO of the Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra. “The relationship between Manfred and the musicians is one of profound trust and musical connection. Together they have built an internationally celebrated partnership that has elevated this orchestra to new heights. This renewal reflects our commitment and shared belief in the importance of such ambition and continuity that continues to build momentum for the Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra's future.”



Throughout his artistic leadership since 2008, Manfred Honeck has elevated the international status of the Pittsburgh Symphony through a renewed interest in recordings and international touring, as well as lauded performances renowned for their distinctive and revelatory interpretations. He has shaped the orchestra's artistic identity with a deep sense of purpose and passion, and under his leadership, the orchestra continues to flourish both artistically and as a cultural ambassador for the city of Pittsburgh. With Honeck, the Orchestra launched its critically acclaimed Pittsburgh Live! Recording series with Reference Recordings, earning twelve GRAMMY® Award nominations and three wins, including Best Orchestral Performance for the Shostakovich Symphony No. 5/Barber *Adagio for Strings* album. Honeck has also led the PSO on regular European tours during his tenure, including four appearances at the prestigious Salzburg Festival as the only American orchestra—again a stop in August 2026 on their next European tour—as well as visits to the Lucerne Festival and season-opening performances at the Elbphilharmonie in Hamburg, Amsterdam's Concertgebouw, and Vienna's Konzerthaus. Most recently, the orchestra received rave reviews upon its return to Carnegie Hall in December 2025.

“For nearly two decades I have felt a very special relationship with this orchestra,” said Honeck. “From my first performances, I sensed a unique spirit of devotion to the music and power in execution. Our relationship is built on trust, dedication, and a shared desire to reach the deepest meaning of the music we perform. I remain grateful and proud of this partnership and inspired by what we can continue to accomplish together in the years ahead.”

Honeck's PSO legacy also includes a distinctive body of creative projects, from new commissions and premieres by composers including Carlos Simon, Mason Bates, Lera Auerbach, James MacMillan, Samy Moussa, and Jessie Montgomery, to his own symphonic suites and semi-staged choral works. His tenure has brought the PSO into collaboration with leading artists across disciplines, including Anne-Sophie Mutter, Yo-Yo Ma, Lang Lang, John Williams, and F. Murray Abraham while also fostering a new generation of performers. For his work in championing the music of Austrian composer Anton Bruckner, he was awarded the Medal of Honor from the Bruckner Society of America in February 2026.

“With this extension of Manfred Honeck's contract to become the longest-serving Music Director in the Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra's history,” said Concertmaster David McCarroll, “we look forward to many more performances together - in Pittsburgh, on tour, and through our recordings - which delve deeply into each composer's and each work's core. Maestro Honeck works tirelessly with the orchestra to bring out a multitude of details as well as delivering performances of great meaning and immediate impact, for which the PSO is known, and with today's historic announcement, there is a sense of excitement and pride that this special relationship and way of making music together will continue.”

Beyond the concert hall, Honeck has built deep connections throughout the region's educational, cultural, and faith communities. His contributions have been recognized with honorary degrees from Carnegie Mellon University, Duquesne University, Catholic University of America, and Saint Vincent College, where the orchestra regularly performs. In 2018, he led the orchestra and city in the Concert for Peace and Unity in honor of the Pittsburgh Synagogue shooting victims,



and in 2013 he led *The Singing City*, a landmark concert that brought thousands of singers from the region together with the Symphony. Honeck has regularly partnered with Pittsburgh arts organizations: he has performed semi-staged productions of Handel's *Messiah*, Bach's *St. John Passion* and Haydn's *Creation* with the Mendelssohn Choir of Pittsburgh and caps his 25/26 season with *Appalachian Spring* alongside the Pittsburgh Ballet Theatre.

“The Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra’s future is being built on the organization’s collective vision for sustaining world-class artistry while continuing to evolve and serve our community at the highest level,” said PSO Board Chair Tony Bucci. “This renewal signals the Board’s confidence in the extraordinary partnership between Manfred Honeck and the PSO, and our faith in his role in the long-term artistic vision and stability of this great organization.”

“Today’s announcement of Maestro Honeck’s contract extension heightens the artistic vision of the Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra and securely sets us apart from other American orchestras with its continued recording and touring,” said William Caballero, PSO Principal Horn. “His engagement advances the extraordinary musical relationship he has had with the orchestra and continues the storied history and tradition that is synonymous with past PSO Music Directors, which includes Fritz Reiner, William Steinburg, André Previn, Lorin Maazel, and Mariss Jansons. The musicians are indebted to Manfred and his family, and thank him deeply for his leadership, his passion, and most especially, his commitment to our world class orchestra.”

“When music is played well,” said Honeck, “there is a sense that it is the most necessary and urgent thing there is: needed by the audience, crucial from the source of its creation. With the musicians of the Pittsburgh Symphony, I feel this imperative in each performance. I am honored, excited and inspired to extend this partnership to be 25 years, a milestone that reflects the deepest artistic relationship of my life. I cherish the 18 years I have had with this orchestra and look forward with great anticipation to all that the next seven years will bring.”

PSO Music Director History

Victor Herbert: 1898 – 1904

Emil Paur: 1904 – 1910

Antonio Modarelli: 1930 – 1937

Otto Klemperer: 1937 – 1938

Fritz Reiner: 1938 – 1948

William Steinberg: 1952 – 1976

André Previn: 1976 – 1984

Lorin Maazel: 1984 – 1996

Mariss Jansons: 1995 – 2004

Marek Janowski, Sir Andrew Davis, Yan Pascal Tortelier: 2005 – 2007

Manfred Honeck: 2008 –

About Manfred Honeck



Manfred Honeck has served as Music Director of the Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra since the 2008–2009 season, guiding an era marked by artistic distinction, international touring, acclaimed recordings, and a deep musical partnership with its musicians. He has held leadership positions with major orchestras and opera companies across Europe and remains a celebrated guest conductor of the world's leading ensembles. His audio releases with the Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra on Reference Recordings have earned widespread critical acclaim and multiple GRAMMY® awards and nominations. He holds honorary doctorates from several U.S. universities, was named Artist of the Year by the International Classical Music Awards in 2018, and received the honorary title of Professor from the President of Austria.

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