

## **BIOGRAPHIES**

### **JOSHUA BELL**

With a career spanning more than 30 years as a soloist, chamber musician, recording artist, and conductor, **Joshua Bell** is one of the most celebrated violinists of his era. Named music director of the Academy of St. Martin in the Fields in 2011, he is the first person to hold this post since Neville Marriner formed the orchestra in 1958. Mr. Bell is an exclusive Sony Classical artist and recipient of the Avery Fisher Prize. He has recorded more than 40 CDs, garnering Grammy, Echo Klassik, and the Gramophone Classical Music awards.

As a member of President Obama's Committee on the Arts and the Humanities, Mr. Bell participated in the first cultural delegation to Cuba. He is involved in Turnaround Arts, a signature program of the committee led by Michelle Obama providing arts education to low-performing elementary and middle schools.

Bell's new season includes performances with the Czech Philharmonic, tours of Switzerland with the Verbier Festival Chamber Orchestra and to Korea and Japan with the Orchestra de Paris; in North America with the Atlanta and Minnesota Orchestras, the Los Angeles Philharmonic and in recital with pianist Alessio Bax at Lincoln Center, ending 2016 with the Leipzig Gewandhaus Orchestra. 2017 includes tours to Europe and Australia with the Academy of St Martin in the Fields a U.S. recital tour with pianist Sam Haywood, and performances with the Montreal, Seattle Symphony and the New York Philharmonic.

Bell returns to Washington, DC for a week long Artist-in-Residence, examining synergies between music, dance, the culinary arts, literature, education and technology including the world premiere co-commission from Anne Dudley of the family concert based on the best-selling book children's book *The Man with the Violin*, inspired by Bell's incognito 2007 Washington, DC Metro performance.

Bell received his first violin at age four and at 12 began studying with Josef Gingold at Indiana University. At 14 he performed with Riccardo Muti and the Philadelphia Orchestra and at 17 made his Carnegie Hall debut. Perhaps the event that helped most to transform his reputation from 'musician's musician' to 'household name' was his incognito performance in a Washington, DC subway station in 2007. Ever adventurous, Bell had agreed to participate in the *Washington Post* story by Gene Weingarten which thoughtfully examined art and context. The story earned Weingarten a Pulitzer Prize and sparked an international firestorm of discussion which continues to this day.

Mr. Bell performs on the 1713 Huberman Stradivarius violin. [WWW.JOSHUABELL.COM](http://WWW.JOSHUABELL.COM)

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### **STEVEN ISSERLIS**

Acclaimed for his profound musicianship and technical mastery, **Steven Isserlis** enjoys a uniquely varied career as a soloist, chamber musician, educator, author and broadcaster. He appears with the world's leading orchestras and conductors, including in 16/17 the Vienna Philharmonic, London Philharmonic, Zurich Tonhalle and Los Angeles Philharmonic orchestras. Unusually, he also directs chamber orchestras from the cello in classical programmes.

He has a strong interest in historical performance, working with many period-instrument orchestras and giving recitals with harpsichord and fortepiano. He is also a keen exponent of contemporary music and has premiered many new works, including John Tavener's *The Protecting Veil*, Thomas Adès's *Lieux retrouvés*, and Gyorgy Kurtag's 'For Steven'.

Steven's award-winning discography includes Bach's complete Solo Cello Suites (*Gramophone's* Instrumental Album of the Year); Beethoven's cello music with Robert Levin; and the Elgar and Walton concertos with the Philharmonia Orchestra under Paavo Jarvi.

For the past nineteen years he has been Artistic Director of the International Musicians Seminar at Prussia Cove, Cornwall. He has created three musical stories for children, with the composer Anne Dudley - all three premiered by

Isserlis with Joshua Bell, Jeremy Denk and other friends at the 92nd St Y in New York - and has written two children's books about the lives of the great composers. A new book, a commentary on Schumann's *Advice for Young Musicians*, is published by Faber's in September 2016.

The recipient of many awards, Steven Isserlis's honours include a CBE in recognition of his services to music and the Schumann Prize of the City of Zwickau.

He performs on the 1726 Marquis de Corberon (Nelsova) Stradivarius, loaned to him by the Royal Academy of Music.  
[WWW.STEVENISSERLIS.COM](http://WWW.STEVENISSERLIS.COM)

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## THE ACADEMY OF ST MARTIN IN THE FIELDS

**The Academy of St Martin in the Fields** is one of the world's greatest chamber orchestras, renowned for fresh, brilliant interpretations of the world's most-loved classical music.

Formed by Sir Neville Marriner in 1958 from a group of leading London musicians, the Academy gave its first performance in its namesake church in November 1959. Through unrivalled live performances and a vast recording output – highlights of which include the 1969 best-seller Vivaldi's *Four Seasons* and the soundtrack to 1985's Oscar-winning film *Amadeus* – the Academy quickly gained an enviable international reputation for its distinctive, polished and refined sound.

Today the Academy is led by Music Director and virtuoso violinist Joshua Bell, retaining the collegiate spirit and flexibility of the original small, conductor-less ensemble which has become an Academy hallmark, whilst pushing the boundaries of play-directed performance to new heights. With nearly 100 concerts all around the world each year, the Academy travels an annual average of 50,000 miles, reaching over 5 million people through their recordings and live performances as they go. Each year the Academy collaborates with some of the world's most talented soloists and directors, performing symphonic repertoire and chamber music on a grand scale at prestigious venues from New York to Beijing. These partnerships extend to the recording studio, where regular additions to the orchestra's celebrated back-catalogue of over 500 recordings make the Academy one of the most recorded chamber orchestras in the world.

Find out more about the Academy of St Martin in the Fields at [WWW.ASMF.ORG](http://WWW.ASMF.ORG)

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## JEREMY DENK

**Jeremy Denk** is one of America's foremost pianists. Winner of a MacArthur "Genius" Fellowship, the Avery Fisher Prize, and Musical America's Instrumentalist of the Year award, he returns frequently to Carnegie Hall and has recently appeared at the BBC Proms with Michael Tilson Thomas, and in the US with the Chicago Symphony, New York Philharmonic, and Cleveland Orchestra, as well as on tour with Academy St. Martin in the Fields.

In 16-17, Denk embarks on a recital tour of the UK, including the Wigmore Hall, and makes his debut at the Philharmonie in Cologne. He appears on tour in recital throughout the US, including Chicago Symphony Hall, and at Lincoln Center's White Light Festival. He will also release a new solo recording - "The Classical Style" - following on from his disc of the Goldberg Variations--which reached number one on Billboard's Classical Chart. Denk's recent engagements include a fourteen-city recital tour of the US, culminating in his return to Carnegie Hall.

Denk is known for his original and insightful writing on music, which Alex Ross praises for its "arresting sensitivity and wit." The pianist's writing has appeared in the *New Yorker*, *The Guardian*, and on the front page of the *New York Times Book Review*. Jeremy Denk lives in New York City. [HTTPS://JEREMYDENK.NET](https://JEREMYDENK.NET)