

Jeannette Sorrell, conductor

"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

*"Sorrell is an absolute dynamo onstage and a pleasure to see conduct...
a force to be reckoned with."*

– San Francisco Classical Voice, 2019

"Sorrell led a splendid performance. Wonderful vitality... lithe, glowing and elegant."

– THE NEW YORK TIMES, Anthony Tommasini, chief critic
(review with the New York Philharmonic), 2021

APPROVED BIOS – January 2023

5 Versions:

Long (532 words), Medium (455 words), Medium-Short (362 words)

Short (342 words), Very Short (313 words)

PLEASE DO NOT EDIT THESE BIOS. If none of these 5 lengths fits your needs, please contact Arabella Artists to obtain an alternate version.

[Version 1: Long – 532 words]

GRAMMY®-winning conductor Jeannette Sorrell is recognized internationally as one of today's most compelling interpreters of Baroque and Classical repertoire. She is credited by **BBC MUSIC MAGAZINE** for *"forging a vibrant, life-affirming approach to early music."*

Bridging the period-instrument and symphonic worlds from a young age, Sorrell studied conducting under Leonard Bernstein, Roger Norrington and Robert Spano at the Tanglewood and Aspen music festivals. As a harpsichordist, she studied with Gustav Leonhardt in Amsterdam and won First Prize and the Audience Choice Award in the Spivey International Harpsichord Competition, competing against over 70 harpsichordists from Europe, Israel, the U.S., and the Soviet Union.

Sorrell made her **New York Philharmonic** debut in 2021 and **Philadelphia Orchestra** debut in 2022, both to rave reviews. She has repeatedly conducted the Pittsburgh Symphony, St Paul Chamber Orchestra, Seattle Symphony, Utah Symphony, Florida Orchestra, and New World Symphony, and has also led the **Royal Liverpool Philharmonic** (Bach's *St John Passion*), the **National Symphony** at the Kennedy Center, Los Angeles Chamber Orchestra, Opera St Louis with the St Louis Symphony, Philharmonia Baroque in San Francisco, the Calgary Philharmonic (Canada), Royal Northern Sinfonia (UK), Grand Rapids Symphony, and North Carolina Symphony, among others. Debuts in 2022-23 include the Orquesta Sinfónica de Castilla y León (Spain) and the Philadelphia Orchestra.

Sorrell is the subject of the 2019 documentary by Oscar-winning director Allan Miller, titled *PLAYING WITH FIRE: Jeannette Sorrell and the Mysteries of Conducting*. She has also been featured on *Living the Classical Life*. She has attracted national awards for her creative programming and her “storytelling” approach to early music, which has attracted many new listeners to the genre.

As the founder and artistic director of APOLLO’S FIRE, Sorrell has led the renowned period ensemble in sold-out concerts at Carnegie Hall, the Madrid Royal Theatre, London’s BBC Proms and many other venues. At home in Cleveland, she and Apollo’s Fire have built one of the largest audiences of any baroque orchestra in North America.

With over 12 million views of their YouTube videos, Sorrell and Apollo’s Fire have released 30 commercial CDs, of which 11 have been bestsellers on Billboard Classical. Sorrell won a GRAMMY® in 2019 for her album *“Songs of Orpheus”* with Apollo’s Fire and tenor Karim Sulayman. Her CD recordings of the Bach *St John Passion* and Vivaldi’s *Four Seasons* have been chosen as best in the field by the SUNDAY TIMES of London (2020 and 2021). Her Monteverdi *Vespers* recording was chosen by **BBC Music Magazine** as one of “30 Must-Have Recordings for Our Lifetime” (September 2022). Her discography also includes the complete Brandenburg Concerti and harpsichord concerti of Bach (Billboard Classical Top 10 in 2012), four discs of Mozart, Handel’s *Messiah*, and five creative crossover projects, including *Sephardic Journey* (Billboard World Music #2, Classical #7) and *Christmas on Sugarloaf Mountain* (Billboard Classical #3, and named “Festive Disc of the Year” by GRAMOPHONE).

She holds an Artist Diploma from Oberlin Conservatory, an honorary doctorate from Case Western University and an award from the American Musicological Society. Passionate about guiding the next generation of performers, Sorrell is the architect of Apollo’s Fire’s Young Artist Apprentice program, which has produced many of the nation’s leading young professional baroque players.

[Version 2: Medium, 455 words]

GRAMMY®-winning conductor Jeannette Sorrell is recognized internationally as one of today’s most compelling interpreters of Baroque and Classical repertoire. The daughter of a European immigrant father and an American mother, she grew up as a musician and dancer, and is credited by **BBC MUSIC MAGAZINE** for “forging a vibrant, life-affirming approach to early music.”

Bridging the period-instrument and symphonic worlds from a young age, Sorrell studied conducting under Leonard Bernstein, Roger Norrington and Robert Spano at the Tanglewood and Aspen music festivals; and studied harpsichord with Gustav Leonhardt in Amsterdam. She won First Prize in the Spivey International Harpsichord Competition, competing against over 70 harpsichordists from four continents.

As a guest conductor, Sorrell made her **New York Philharmonic** debut in 2021 and **Philadelphia Orchestra** debut in 2022, both to rave reviews. She has repeatedly conducted the Pittsburgh Symphony, St Paul Chamber Orchestra, Seattle Symphony, Utah Symphony, Florida Orchestra, and New World Symphony, and has also led the **Royal Liverpool Philharmonic** (Bach’s *St John Passion*),

the **National Symphony** at the Kennedy Center, Los Angeles Chamber Orchestra, Opera St Louis with the St Louis Symphony, Calgary Philharmonic (Canada), Grand Rapids Symphony, and Philharmonia Baroque in San Francisco, among others. Debuts in 2022-23 include the Orquesta Sinfónica de Castilla y León (Spain) and the Philadelphia Orchestra.

Sorrell is the subject of the 2019 documentary by Oscar-winning director Allan Miller, titled *PLAYING WITH FIRE: Jeannette Sorrell and the Mysteries of Conducting*. She has also been featured on *Living the Classical Life*. She has attracted national awards for her creative programming and her “storytelling” approach to early music, which has attracted many new listeners to the genre.

As the founder and artistic director of APOLLO’S FIRE, she has led the renowned period ensemble in sold-out concerts at many of the world’s major concert halls, including Carnegie Hall and London’s BBC Proms. With over 12 million views of their YouTube videos, Sorrell and Apollo’s Fire have released 30 commercial CDs, including 11 bestsellers on the Billboard classical chart and a 2019 GRAMMY® winner.

Her CD recordings of the Bach *St John Passion* and Vivaldi’s *Four Seasons* have been chosen as best in the field by the SUNDAY TIMES of London (2020 and 2021). Her Monteverdi *Vespers* recording was chosen by **BBC Music Magazine** as one of “30 Must-Have Recordings for Our Lifetime” (September 2022). Her discography also includes the complete Brandenburg Concerti of Bach (Billboard Classical Top 10 in 2012), four discs of Mozart, Handel’s *Messiah*, and five creative multicultural projects, including *Christmas on Sugarloaf Mountain* (Billboard Classical #3, and named “Festive Disc of the Year” by GRAMOPHONE).

Sorrell received an Artist Diploma from Oberlin Conservatory, an honorary doctorate from Case Western University and an award from the American Musicological Society.

Version 3 – Medium-Short (362 words)

GRAMMY®-winning conductor Jeannette Sorrell is recognized internationally as one of today’s most compelling interpreters of Baroque and Classical repertoire. She is the subject of the 2019 documentary by Oscar-winning director Allan Miller, titled *PLAYING WITH FIRE: Jeannette Sorrell and the Mysteries of Conducting*.

Bridging the period-instrument and symphonic worlds from a young age, Sorrell studied conducting under Leonard Bernstein, Roger Norrington and Robert Spano at the Tanglewood and Aspen music festivals; and studied harpsichord with Gustav Leonhardt in Amsterdam. She won First Prize in the Spivey International Harpsichord Competition, competing against over 70 harpsichordists from Europe, Israel, the U.S., and the Soviet Union.

As a guest conductor, Sorrell made her **New York Philharmonic** debut in 2021 and **Philadelphia Orchestra** debut in 2022, both to rave reviews. She has repeatedly conducted the Pittsburgh Symphony, St Paul Chamber Orchestra, Seattle Symphony, Utah Symphony, Florida Orchestra, and New World Symphony, and has also led the **Royal Liverpool Philharmonic** (Bach’s *St John Passion*), the **National Symphony** at the Kennedy Center, Los Angeles Chamber Orchestra, Opera St Louis with

the St Louis Symphony, Calgary Philharmonic (Canada), Grand Rapids Symphony, North Carolina Symphony, and Philharmonia Baroque in San Francisco, among others. Debuts in 2022-23 include the Orquesta Sinfónica de Castilla y León (Spain) and the Philadelphia Orchestra.

As founder and conductor of APOLLO'S FIRE, she has led the renowned ensemble at London's BBC Proms, Carnegie Hall, the Madrid Royal Theatre, Irish National Concert Hall, Library of Congress, and many international venues. Sorrell and Apollo's Fire have released 30 commercial CDs, including 11 bestsellers on the Billboard classical chart and a 2019 GRAMMY® winner. Her CD recordings of the Bach *St John Passion* and Vivaldi's *Four Seasons* have been chosen as best in the field by the **Sunday Times** of London (2020 and 2021). Her Monteverdi *Vespers* recording was chosen by **BBC Music Magazine** as one of "30 Must-Have Recordings for Our Lifetime" (September 2022). Other albums include the complete Brandenburg Concerti of Bach (Billboard Classical Top 10 in 2012), and four discs of Mozart, and five creative multicultural programs.

With over 12 million views of her YouTube videos, Sorrell has attracted national attention and awards for creative programming.

[Version 4: Short – 342 words]

GRAMMY®-winning conductor Jeannette Sorrell is recognized internationally as one of today's most compelling interpreters of Baroque and Classical repertoire. She is the subject of the 2019 documentary by Oscar-winning director Allan Miller, titled *PLAYING WITH FIRE: Jeannette Sorrell and the Mysteries of Conducting*.

Bridging the period-instrument and symphonic worlds from a young age, she studied conducting under Leonard Bernstein, Roger Norrington and Robert Spano at the Tanglewood and Aspen music festivals; and studied harpsichord with Gustav Leonhardt in Amsterdam. She won First Prize in the Spivey International Harpsichord Competition, competing against over 70 harpsichordists from four continents.

Sorrell made her **New York Philharmonic** debut in 2021 and **Philadelphia Orchestra** debut in 2022, both to rave reviews. She has repeatedly conducted the Pittsburgh Symphony, St Paul Chamber Orchestra, Seattle Symphony, Utah Symphony, Florida Orchestra, and New World Symphony, and has also led the **Royal Liverpool Philharmonic** (Bach's *St John Passion*), the **National Symphony** at the Kennedy Center, Los Angeles Chamber Orchestra, Opera St Louis with the St Louis Symphony, Grand Rapids Symphony, and Philharmonia Baroque in San Francisco, among others. Engagements in 2022-23 include returns to the New World Symphony, Seattle Symphony, and Philharmonia Baroque; and debuts with the Orquesta Sinfónica de Castilla y León (Spain) and the Philadelphia Orchestra.

As founder and conductor of APOLLO'S FIRE, she has led the renowned ensemble at London's BBC Proms, Carnegie Hall, and many international venues. Sorrell and Apollo's Fire have released 30 commercial CDs, including 11 bestsellers on the Billboard classical chart and a 2019 GRAMMY® winner. Her CD recordings of the Bach *St John Passion* and Vivaldi's *Four Seasons* have been chosen as best in the field by the **Sunday Times** of London (2020 and 2021). Her Monteverdi *Vespers*

recording was chosen by **BBC Music Magazine** as one of “30 Must-Have Recordings for Our Lifetime” (September 2022).

With over 12 million views of her YouTube videos, Sorrell has attracted national attention and awards for creative programming. She received an honorary doctorate from Case Western Reserve University and an award from the American Musicological Society.

[Version 5: Very Short – 313 words]

GRAMMY®-winning conductor Jeannette Sorrell is recognized internationally as one of today’s most compelling interpreters of Baroque and Classical repertoire. She is the subject of the 2019 documentary by Oscar-winning director Allan Miller, titled *PLAYING WITH FIRE: Jeannette Sorrell and the Mysteries of Conducting*.

Bridging the period-instrument and symphonic worlds from a young age, Sorrell studied conducting at the Aspen and the Tanglewood music festivals under Leonard Bernstein and Roger Norrington and harpsichord with Gustav Leonhardt in Amsterdam. She won First Prize in the Spivey International Harpsichord Competition, competing against over 70 harpsichordists from four continents.

Sorrell made her **New York Philharmonic** debut in 2021 and **Philadelphia Orchestra** debut in 2022, both to rave reviews. She has repeatedly conducted the Pittsburgh Symphony, St Paul Chamber Orchestra, Seattle Symphony, Utah Symphony, Florida Orchestra, and New World Symphony, and has also led the **Royal Liverpool Philharmonic** (Bach’s *St John Passion*), the **National Symphony** at the Kennedy Center, Los Angeles Chamber Orchestra, Opera St Louis with the St Louis Symphony, Grand Rapids Symphony, and Philharmonia Baroque in San Francisco, among others. Debuts in 2022-23 include the Orquesta Sinfónica de Castilla y León (Spain) and the Philadelphia Orchestra.

As founder and conductor of APOLLO’S FIRE, she has led the renowned ensemble at London’s BBC Proms, Carnegie Hall, and many international venues. Sorrell and Apollo’s Fire have released 30 commercial CDs, including 11 bestsellers on the Billboard classical chart and a 2019 GRAMMY® winner. Her CD recordings of the Bach *St John Passion* and Vivaldi’s *Four Seasons* have been chosen as best in the field by the **Sunday Times** of London (2020 and 2021). Her Monteverdi *Vespers* recording was chosen by **BBC Music Magazine** as one of “30 Must-Have Recordings for Our Lifetime” (September 2022). With over 12 million views of her YouTube videos, Sorrell has attracted national attention and awards for creative programming, using contextual and dramatic elements.