



JEANNETTE SORRELL, *ARTISTIC DIRECTOR*

“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

“A resplendent performance...breathhtaking. The production belonged entirely to Ms. Sorrell.”

— NEW YORK TIMES/James Oestreich, 2016

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4 Versions: Long, Medium, Short, and Very Short

[Version 1: Long – 594 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.”

The daughter of a European immigrant father and American mother, she grew up as a musician and dancer. She studied conducting under Leonard Bernstein, Robert Spano, and Roger Norrington 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.

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

In demand as guest conductor with symphony orchestras and period groups, Sorrell made her **New York Philharmonic** debut to rave reviews in 2021, with critics writing, “Sorrell led a splendid performance with wonderful vitality. It’s difficult for a “Messiah” performance to stand out. But this one did” (Tomassini, NEW YORK TIMES). She has repeatedly conducted the Pittsburgh Symphony, St

Paul Chamber Orchestra, 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, Seattle Symphony, Opera St Louis with the St Louis Symphony, Philharmonia Baroque Orchestra in San Francisco, the Calgary Philharmonic (Canada), North Carolina Symphony, and San Diego Symphony, among others.

In 2022-23, Sorrell makes debuts with the **Philadelphia Orchestra** (Handel's *Messiah*) and the Orquesta Sinfónica de Castilla y León (Spain), and returns to the Seattle Symphony, New World, and Philharmonia Baroque.

With over 10 million views of their YouTube videos, Sorrell and Apollo's Fire have released 29 commercial CDs, of which 10 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 recordings of the Bach *St John Passion*, Vivaldi's *Four Seasons*, and the Monteverdi *Vespers* have been chosen as best in the field by the **Sunday Times of London** (2020 and 2021) and BBC Magazine (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 – Wanderings of the Spanish Jews* (Billboard World Music #2, Classical #7) and *Christmas on Sugarloaf Mountain* (Billboard Classical #3, and named "Festive Disc of the Year" by GRAMOPHONE).

Sorrell is the subject of the 2019 documentary by Academy award-winning director Allan Miller, titled PLAYING WITH FIRE. 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 through the use of contextual and dramatic elements.

She holds an honorary doctorate from Case Western University, two special 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, 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; and the new Artistic Leadership Fellows program.

[Version 2: Medium, 493 words]

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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 Europe, Israel, the U.S., and the Soviet Union.

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, from Carnegie Hall and London's BBC Proms to the Tanglewood and Ravinia festivals. With over 10 million views of their YouTube videos, Sorrell and Apollo's Fire have released 29 commercial CDs, including 10 bestsellers on the Billboard classical chart and a 2019 GRAMMY® winner.

In demand as guest conductor with symphony orchestras and period groups, Sorrell made her **New York Philharmonic** debut to rave reviews in 2021. She has repeatedly conducted the Pittsburgh Symphony, St Paul Chamber Orchestra, 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, Seattle Symphony, Opera St Louis with the St Louis Symphony, and Philharmonia Baroque Orchestra in San Francisco, among others. In 2022-23, Sorrell makes debuts with the **Philadelphia Orchestra** (Handel's *Messiah*) and the Orquesta Sinfónica de Castilla y León (Spain), and returns to the Seattle Symphony, New World, and Philharmonia Baroque.

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[Version 3: Short – 338 words]

GRAMMY®-winning conductor and harpsichordist Jeannette Sorrell is recognized internationally as one of today's most compelling interpreters of Baroque and Classical repertoire.

She studied conducting under Leonard Bernstein and Roger Norrington at the Tanglewood and Aspen music festivals; and studied harpsichord with Gustav Leonhardt in Amsterdam. She won both 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.

She is the founder and artistic director of APOLLO'S FIRE, and has led the renowned period ensemble in sold-out concerts at many of the world's major concert halls, from Carnegie Hall and London's BBC Proms to the Tanglewood and Ravinia festivals. Sorrell and Apollo's Fire have released 29 commercial CDs, including 10 bestsellers on the Billboard classical chart and a 2019 GRAMMY®-winner. Her CD recordings of the Bach *St John Passion*, Vivaldi's *Four Seasons*, and the Monteverdi *Vespers* have been chosen as best in the field by the **Sunday Times** of London (2020 and 2021) and **BBC Magazine** (2022).

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[Version 4: Very Short – 313 words]

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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 Europe, Israel, the U.S., and the Soviet Union.

As founder and conductor of APOLLO'S FIRE, she has led the renowned ensemble at London's BBC Proms, Carnegie Hall, Madrid's Royal Theatre, London's Wigmore Hall, and the Tanglewood, Ravinia, and Boston Early Music festivals, among others. Sorrell and Apollo's Fire have released 29 commercial CDs, including 10 bestsellers on the Billboard classical chart and a 2019 GRAMMY®-winner. Her CD recordings of the Bach *St John Passion*, Vivaldi's *Four Seasons*, and the Monteverdi *Vespers* have been chosen as best in the field by the **Sunday Times** of London (2020 and 2021) and **BBC Magazine** (2022).

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Sorrell has attracted national attention and awards for creative programming, using contextual and dramatic elements. She received an honorary doctorate from Case Western University and an award from the American Musicological Society.