

Jeannette Sorrell, conductor

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

– San Francisco Classical Voice

*"Sorrell led a splendid performance. Wonderful vitality... lithe, glowing and elegant.
It's difficult for a "Messiah" performance to stand out. But this one did."*

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

APPROVED BIOS – March 2024

4 Versions:

**Long (580 words), Medium (492 words),
Medium-Short (395 words), and Short (350 words)**

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[Version 1: Long – 580 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." She is the subject of the documentary by Oscar-winning director Allan Miller, titled *PLAYING WITH FIRE: Jeannette Sorrell and the Mysteries of Conducting*, commercially released in 2023.

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.

As a guest conductor, Sorrell made her New York Philharmonic debut in 2021 to rave reviews and returned in 2023. She has repeatedly conducted the Pittsburgh Symphony, St Paul Chamber Orchestra, Seattle Symphony, Utah Symphony, Florida Orchestra, Philharmonia Baroque in San Francisco, and New World Symphony; and has also led the Philadelphia Orchestra, Royal Scottish National Orchestra, Royal Liverpool Philharmonic, Festival Orchestra of Lincoln Center (NYC), Baltimore Symphony, the National Symphony at the Kennedy Center, Houston Symphony, Los Angeles Chamber Orchestra, Indianapolis Symphony, Opera St Louis with the St Louis Symphony, the

National Arts Centre Orchestra (Ottawa), Calgary Philharmonic (Canada), Royal Northern Sinfonia (UK), Orquesta Sinfónica de Castilla y León (Spain), Grand Rapids Symphony, North Carolina Symphony, and the Orchestra of St Luke's at Carnegie Hall, among others.

In 2024-25, she makes debuts with the Detroit Symphony and New Jersey Symphony, and returns to the Los Angeles Chamber Orchestra and the Colburn School.

Sorrell has been featured on *Living the Classical Life*, and 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, St Martin-in-the-Fields, and many other venues in North America and Europe. At home in Cleveland, she and Apollo's Fire have built one of the largest audiences of any baroque orchestra in North America.

With 19 million views of their YouTube videos, Sorrell and Apollo's Fire have released 32 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 Fellowship program, which has produced many of the nation's leading young professional baroque players.

[Version 2: Medium, 492 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.” She is the subject of the documentary by Oscar-winning director Allan Miller, titled *PLAYING WITH FIRE: Jeannette Sorrell and the Mysteries of Conducting*, commercially released in 2023.

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.

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With 19 million views of her YouTube videos, Sorrell has attracted national attention and awards for creative programming.

[Version 4: Short – 350 words]

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With 19 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 – 224 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*).

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As a guest conductor, Sorrell has repeatedly led the New York Philharmonic, Pittsburgh Symphony, St Paul Chamber Orchestra, Seattle Symphony, Utah Symphony, Florida Orchestra, Philharmonia Baroque in San Francisco, and New World Symphony; and has also led the Philadelphia Orchestra, Royal Scottish National Orchestra, Royal Liverpool Philharmonic, Baltimore Symphony, the National

Symphony at the Kennedy Center, Houston Symphony, and Los Angeles Chamber Orchestra, among others.

Sorrell is the founder and Artistic Director of the renowned period-instrument orchestra APOLLO'S FIRE, with whom she has 33 CD recordings, including 14 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). With 18 million views of her YouTube videos, Sorrell has been nominated for a second GRAMMY in 2025.