

DAVID HANDEL

American conductor David Handel has achieved an extraordinary reputation as one of the most respected and innovative conductors in Latin America. His fame throughout the continent, imaginative programming and distinctive community approach fill halls wherever he conducts.

Since the beginning of his tenure as Music Director of the National Symphony Orchestra of Bolivia, audience attendance has grown exponentially, most of the new audience composed of young concertgoers. Handel's energy and critical acclaim has made him one of the busiest conductors in Latin America and has led to his numerous invitations as guest conductor with many of the region's most important orchestras.

First noticed by Kurt Masur, then Music Director of the Leipzig Gewandhaus Orchestra, David Handel was invited to serve as his apprentice conductor at this historic institution. Since then, he has led orchestras throughout the world, including programs for international radio and television broadcast.

In 1993, David Handel was one of a few young conductors selected to conduct the New York Philharmonic in a preview of young conductors at Carnegie Hall. As a guest conductor, he has performed widely in the United States, Europe, Asia and Latin America.

His repertoire spans most of the symphonic and operatic literature. Having led numerous first performances and world premiers, he has personally commissioned more than seventy original scores and orchestral arrangements and has to his credit a considerable list of television and compact disc recordings.

Twice a fellow of the prestigious Fulbright Senior Scholar Program, David Handel is a laureate of the Chicago Artists International Program and has received numerous awards including two Rackham awards (Michigan, USA), the Marguerite Lapp Scholarship for Exceptional Musical Talent (Buffalo, New York, USA), two Chicago Department of Cultural Affairs and Illinois Arts Council awards, the Decoration of Illimani for outstanding community service in the arts (La Paz, Bolivia), the UNESCO Pro-Santa Cruz National Prize in Culture (Bolivia), the Pedro D. Murillo Medal of Honor (La Paz, Bolivia) and a fellowship from the Leipzig Gewandhaus (Germany). He has represented the United States in Latin America, Asia and the Middle East as a Cultural Ambassador through the U.S. State Department Cultural Specialist Program. Most recently, Handel was decorated with the Coat of Arms of the City of La Paz by President Evo Morales and was the feature of profiles in The Washington Post and National Public Radio (USA).

Among David Handel's most recent activities are releases of three compact disc recordings with the National Symphony Orchestra of Bolivia and the UNCuyo Symphony Orchestra of works by Erich Eisner and Antonín Dvorak, and of works by David Winkler and Alberto Ginastera recorded for the Naxos label released in September of 2008. In 2007, David Handel conducted the combined orchestras of Baghdad, Erbil and Suleimaniya at the Unity Festival (Erbil, Iraq), a multi-national *American Voices* mission of support and solidarity with Iraqi orchestral musicians and young artists. January of 2009 will mark the third year of the Guadalquivir International Festival which he founded in the Andean town of Tarija, Bolivia, bringing together some of the finest orchestral musicians from throughout the Americas.

His upcoming activities include return engagements with the National Symphony Orchestra of Argentina (Buenos Aires), the National Symphony Orchestra of Colombia (Bogota), the UFF National Symphony Orchestra (Rio De Janeiro, Brazil), the Amazon Philharmonic at the famed Teatro Amazonas (Manaus, Brazil), the Koszalin State Philharmonic (Poland), invitations from the San Juan Symphony Orchestra (Argentina), the Mar Del Plata Symphony Orchestra (Argentina), the Salta Symphony Orchestra (Argentina), the Riverside Symphonia (New Jersey, USA), the Henri Wienawski Philharmonic of Lublin (Poland), the Irkutsk Philharmonic (Russia), the Milan State Symphony Orchestra (Italy), La Serena Symphony Orchestra ULS (Chile) and recording projects of music by composers David Winkler and Alberto Ginastera.