

# DAVID HANDEL

## CRITICAL ACCLAIM

### **“Maestro Handel is a ‘messiah’ for orchestra”**

The Miami Herald, Florida, USA

### **“David Handel elevates El Paso Symphony Orchestra...**

**Mesmerizing.... The postured Handel, who grew more animated with each movement, kept it on track, on time and on the spot ... There was a moment during that crazy fifth movement (Berlioz's “Fantastic Symphony”) where you could sense an almost magical connection between the music, the musicians and the conductor. Not only did the crowd respond with a loud and long standing ovation, but the musicians applauded him at length, something I haven't seen in three years of covering their concerts.... By making those musicians sound as good and alive as they did, and in such convincing fashion, Handel has to have established himself as a very strong front-runner ...”**

El Paso Times, Texas, USA

**“ The young maestro and envoy of American culture, David Handel - who posses European education of the highest order (he was assistant to Kurt Masur at the Leipzig Gewandhaus) -, currently occupies a leadership role in Latin America... The debut of David Handel in Moscow forms part of the presidential mission Medvedev-Obama, as announced by the United States Ambassador... The refined conductor provoked a hurricane of emotional admiration in the hall... It was clear that Handel worked in great detail with the musicians of the Russian Philharmonic... It has been a long time since the Orchestra has demonstrated so excellent and stylized playing. Indeed, one sensed the strong hand of a truly professional conductor, ... who was not only able to bring out the form, but also filling it with every detail of its content. It is clear that in the communication with various conductors, the great creative potential of the ensemble's musicians has been awakened, above all when on the podium there is so brilliant a professional as David Handel... The orchestra sounded luxuriously and grandly ‘in tutti’.”**

Magazine CULTURE, Moscow, Russia

### **“Conductor candidate sets high bar to beat...**

**David Handel, who got a sustained ovation at the last concert... An impressionable personality and demanding musician... Handel threaded the beautiful melody from the guitar (Rodrigo's Concierto de Aranjuezg) gently to keep from being covered by the orchestra, yet allowed its strong interpretation flow through. The performance blew the audience away both nights... What a trip... Handel whipped up the orchestra in fine style... Handel lets all hell break loose (Berlioz's “Fantastic Symphony”) with instruments going and blowing one moment, then shushes to solemnity before a return to heavy uproar. The audience went wild. Handel took so many bows he looked like a puppet on strings. He ‘took no prisoners’ keeping the orchestra in tow and in line! With a résumé a mile long and excellent conducting technique, it verifies his qualifications...”**

El Paso Inc., Texas, USA

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**"Handel's decisive style brought cohesive, blended sounds, precise attacks, and bold dynamics from the orchestra, in a performance that was polished, expressive and full of carefully shaped phrases throughout..."**

Milwaukee Journal Sentinel, Wisconsin, USA

**"Handel has brought the National Symphony of Bolivia to levels of public awareness and excellence heretofore unknown. His energetic podium manner and repose in real life are fresh air in our midst."**

COSAS, Syndicated, South America

**"Much more than pure joy... The capacity crowd of more than 2,000 gave a massive 'YES' to this performance... The extremely notable interpretation of this universal classic (Beethoven's Ninth Symphony), under the direction of Maestro David Handel, revealed the true vigor of the original score... Every one of the singularities of each of the four movements was indicated by Handel with mathematical precision, but was at the same time filled with enchantment... All were received with an extended standing ovation... Musicians and public alike were radiant with joy"**

Diario UNO, Mendoza, Argentina

**"Replete with interesting variety... Emphasis was placed on rhythmic appeal. Fluid sections with ritardandi were particularly effective... Equally impressive in shape and accomplishment was the melancholy and dramatic... where Handel's attentive conducting was also remarkable for its sensitivity."**

The Sunday Times, Malta

**"The public burst into applause.... Yes, the concert was truly great; not only for the opportunity to enjoy the musicianship of violinist Schlomo Mintz, but because the Orchestra was so solidly guided by its music director David Handel in a well balanced program, full of emotion and one intelligently delineated."**

Los Andes, Mendoza, Argentina

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## BIOGRAPHY

Acclaimed the world over, American conductor David Handel has achieved an extraordinary reputation as one of the most respected and innovative conductors of his generation. His international fame, imaginative programming and distinctive community approach fill halls wherever he conducts.

David Handel has been described by the international press as “mesmerizing”, “decisive”, “commanding”, and achieving a “magical connection between the music, musicians and the conductor.” Recently named Principal Guest of the **Moscow City Symphony Orchestra – Russian Philharmonic** - one of the Russian Federation's finest orchestral ensembles and the only official Municipal Moscow Orchestra -, he will lead a series of concerts, concert tours and recordings with this virtuoso Orchestra in Russia and abroad.

A graduate of the University of Michigan (Bachelor's and Master's Degrees), his principal teachers were Gustav Meier, Elizabeth Green and Ruggiero Ricci. First noticed by Kurt Masur, then Music Director of the Leipzig Gewandhaus, 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 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, Central Asia, the Middle East and Latin America, and he has collaborated with such renowned soloists as Schlomo Mintz, Walter Ponce, Pepe Romero, Rachel Barton Pine and Peter Donahoe, among many others.

At an early age, David Handel was appointed Music Director of the National Symphony Orchestra of Bolivia. Since the beginning of his tenure, audience attendance has grown exponentially, most of the new audience composed of young concertgoers, the National Symphony organization growing at the same accelerated pace as its public. His achievements with the National Symphony of Bolivia have made that organization a model for orchestra-building in Latin America. He has served concurrently as Music Director of the Mendoza UNCuyo Symphony Orchestra – one of Argentina's oldest and most prestigious orchestras-, as Artistic Advisor of the National Symphony Orchestra of Guatemala and most recently as Principal Guest Conductor and Artistic Advisor of the La Serena Symphony Orchestra (Chile). Handel's energy and critical acclaim has made him one of the busiest guest conductors on the Continent.

Extremely varied, Handel's repertoire spans much 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.

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Twice a *Fulbright Senior Scholar*, Maestro Handel is a laureate of the *Chicago Artists International Program* and has received numerous awards including two *Rackham Center for Graduate Studies* awards, the *Marguerite Lapp Scholarship for Exceptional Musical Talent*, two *Chicago Department of Cultural Affairs and Illinois Arts Council* awards, the *Decoration of Illimani for Outstanding Community Service in the Arts*, the *UNESCO Pro-Santa Cruz National Prize in Culture*, the *Pedro D. Murillo Medal of Honor* and a fellowship from the *Leipzig Gewandhaus (Germany)*. He has represented the United States around the world as a Cultural Ambassador through of the U.S. State Department Cultural Specialists Program.

Reflecting his unique skills as a Cultural Ambassador - on and off stage - David Handel has performed in some of the most unexpected of concert venues. In 2007, he led the combined orchestras of Baghdad, Erbil and Suleimaniya (Iraq) at the *American Voices' Unity Festival*, a solidarity initiative, supporting Iraqi orchestral musicians and young artists from all over the country. He is one of the only American conductors to have performed in Cuba since the revolution, was recently decorated with the Coat of Arms of the City of La Paz, Bolivia by President Evo Morales and most recently conducted the annual season finale of the Malta National Philharmonic at the Girgenti Palace, hosted by Prime Minister Lawrence Gonzi.

In 2007, Handel founded the Guadalquivir International Orchestral Festival, bringing together more than a hundred of the finest orchestral musicians from throughout the Americas, and in 2009 he created the National Center for Orchestral Studies in La Paz, an initiative underwritten by the National Symphony Foundation. Among his current projects are recordings of works by Alberto Ginastera, Isaac Albeniz, and include a recent release of music by American composer David Winkler for the Naxos label. His diverse activities and initiatives have been profiled in *The Washington Post*, *USA Today*, *The San Francisco Chronicle*, *The Guardian of London*, *The BBC* and *National Public Radio (USA)*.

In March of 2010, David Handel made his highly acclaimed Moscow debut with the **Moscow City Symphony Orchestra – Russian Philharmonic** at the Moscow International House of Music's Svetlanov Hall, whereupon he was immediately re-engaged to lead numerous programs, recordings and concert tours. In May of 2011, he was named Principal Guest Conductor of this prestigious ensemble.

His upcoming activities include return engagements and concert tours with the *Moscow City Symphony Orchestra – Russian Philharmonic*, concerts with the *Koszalin Philharmonic (Poland)*, the *San Juan Symphony Orchestra (Argentina)*, the *La Serena Symphony Orchestra (Chile)*, the *Malta National Philharmonic*, as well as engagements with the *Owensboro Symphony Orchestra (Kentucky, USA)*, the *IPN Symphony Orchestra (Mexico)*, the *Vitoria and the Sergipe Symphony Orchestras (Brazil)* and the *Milan Academic Symphony Orchestra (Italy)*.

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