

## Jeannette Sorrell, conductor & harpsichordist

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

– NEW YORK TIMES/James Oestreich, 2016

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

– San Francisco Classical Voice, 2019

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### APPROVED BIOS – June 2021

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

[Version 1: Long – 517 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.

Sorrell is the founder and artistic director of APOLLO’S FIRE, and has led the renowned period ensemble as conductor and harpsichord soloist in sold-out concerts from Carnegie Hall 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 with symphony orchestras and period groups alike, Sorrell makes debuts this season with the **New York Philharmonic** (Handel’s *Messiah*) and the **Royal Liverpool Philharmonic** (Bach’s *St John Passion*). She has repeatedly conducted the Pittsburgh Symphony, St Paul Chamber Orchestra, Utah Symphony, and New World Symphony, and also led the National Symphony at the Kennedy Center, the Los Angeles Chamber Orchestra, Seattle Symphony, Opera St Louis with the St Louis Symphony, Philharmonia Baroque Orchestra in San Francisco, the Florida Orchestra, the Calgary Philharmonic (Canada), and the Royal Northern Sinfonia (UK), among others.

With over 7 million views of their YouTube videos, Sorrell and Apollo's Fire have released 26 commercial CDs, of which 8 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 include the complete Brandenburg Concerti and harpsichord concerti of Bach (Billboard Classical Top 10 in 2012). She has also released four discs of Mozart. Other recordings include Bach's *St John Passion*, Handel's *Messiah*, the *Monteverdi Vespers* (Billboard Classical Top 10) 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.

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[Version 2: Medium, 402 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 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.

Sorrell is the founder and artistic director of APOLLO'S FIRE, and has led the renowned period ensemble as conductor and harpsichord soloist in sold-out concerts from Carnegie Hall and London's BBC Proms to the Tanglewood and Ravinia festivals. With nearly 7 million views of

their YouTube videos, Sorrell and Apollo's Fire have released 26 commercial CDs, including 8 bestsellers on the Billboard classical chart and a 2019 GRAMMY® winner. Her recordings include the complete Brandenburg Concerti and harpsichord concerti of Bach; Bach's *St John Passion*; Handel's *Messiah*; and the *Monteverdi Vespers*, among others.

In demand with symphony orchestras and period groups alike, Sorrell makes debuts this season with the **New York Philharmonic** (Handel's *Messiah*) and the **Royal Liverpool Philharmonic** (Bach's *St John Passion*). She has repeatedly conducted the Pittsburgh Symphony, St Paul Chamber Orchestra, Utah Symphony, and New World Symphony, and also led the National Symphony at the Kennedy Center, the Los Angeles Chamber Orchestra, Seattle Symphony, Opera St Louis with the St Louis Symphony, Philharmonia Baroque Orchestra (San Francisco), the Florida Orchestra, the Calgary Philharmonic (Canada), and the Royal Northern Sinfonia (UK), among others.

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She holds an honorary doctorate from Case Western University and an award from the American Musicological Society. Passionate about guiding the next generation of performers, she 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.

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[Version 3: Short – 335 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. She and her ensemble have built one of the largest audiences of any baroque orchestra in North America. Sorrell and Apollo's Fire have released 26 commercial CDs, including 8 bestsellers on the Billboard classical chart and a 2019 GRAMMY®-winner. Her recordings include the complete Brandenburg Concerti and harpsichord concerti of Bach; Bach's *St John Passion*; Handel's *Messiah*; and the *Monteverdi Vespers*, among others.

In demand with symphony orchestras and period groups alike, Sorrell makes debuts this season with the **New York Philharmonic** (Handel's *Messiah*) and the **Royal Liverpool Philharmonic** (Bach's *St John Passion*). She has repeatedly conducted the Pittsburgh Symphony, St Paul Chamber Orchestra, Utah Symphony, and New World Symphony, and has also led the National Symphony at the Kennedy Center, the Los Angeles Chamber Orchestra, Seattle Symphony, Opera St Louis with the St Louis Symphony, Philharmonia Baroque (San Francisco), the Florida Orchestra, Calgary Philharmonic, North Carolina Symphony, and the Royal Northern Sinfonia (UK), among others.

Sorrell is the subject of the 2019 documentary by Academy award-winning director Allan Miller, titled PLAYING WITH FIRE. She has attracted national attention and awards for her creative programming, which has brought many new listeners to early music through the use of contextual and dramatic elements. She received an honorary doctorate from Case Western University and an award from the American Musicological Society.

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[Version 4: Very Short – 294 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 Academy award-winning director Allan Miller, titled PLAYING WITH FIRE.

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.

She is the founder of APOLLO'S FIRE and has led the renowned ensemble as conductor and harpsichord soloist 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 26 commercial CDs, including 8 bestsellers on the Billboard classical chart and a 2019 GRAMMY® winner. Her recordings include the complete Brandenburg Concerti; Bach's *St John Passion*; Handel's *Messiah*; and the *Monteverdi Vespers*.

In demand as a guest conductor with symphony orchestras and period ensembles alike, Sorrell makes debuts this season with the **New York Philharmonic** (Handel's *Messiah*) and the **Royal Liverpool Philharmonic** (Bach's *St John Passion*). She has repeatedly conducted the Pittsburgh Symphony, St Paul Chamber Orchestra, Utah Symphony, and New World Symphony, and also led the National Symphony at the Kennedy Center, the Los Angeles Chamber Orchestra, Seattle Symphony, Opera St Louis with the St Louis Symphony, Philharmonia Baroque (San Francisco), the Florida Orchestra, Calgary Philharmonic, North Carolina Symphony, and the Royal Northern Sinfonia (UK), among others. Sorrell has attracted national attention and awards for creative programming, using contextual and dramatic elements. She has received an honorary doctorate from Case Western University and an award from the American Musicological Society.