

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**)

APPROVED BIOS – May 2026

5 Versions:

Long, Medium, Short, Very Short, and Extra Short

PLEASE DO NOT EDIT THESE BIOS. If none of these 4 lengths fits your needs, please contact Ms Sorrell's management to obtain an alternate version.

[Version 1: Long – 600 words]

GRAMMY®-winning conductor Jeannette Sorrell is recognized internationally as one of today's finest 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 will return there for the fourth time in 2026. She has repeatedly conducted the Pittsburgh Symphony, Detroit Symphony, St Paul Chamber Orchestra, Seattle Symphony, Utah Symphony, Los Angeles Chamber Orchestra, Indianapolis Symphony, Florida Orchestra, Philharmonia Baroque in San Francisco, and New World Symphony; and has also led the Philadelphia Orchestra, Manchester Hallé Orchestra, Royal Scottish National Orchestra, Royal Liverpool Philharmonic, Festival Orchestra of Lincoln Center (NYC), Baltimore Symphony, National Symphony at the Kennedy Center, Houston

Symphony, Oregon Symphony, Opera St Louis with the St Louis Symphony, and the National Arts Centre Orchestra (Ottawa), among others.

In 2026-27, she returns to the New York Philharmonic for the fourth time; and makes her debut with the Deutsches Symphonie-Orchester Berlin, conducting her groundbreaking program “Mozart’s Requiem: A Tapestry” which interweaves requiem selections by living Black composers. Other engagements include debuts with the Kansas City Symphony and Puerto Rico Symphony, and returning to the New World Symphony. She also debuts in Paris and Brussels with Apollo’s Fire.

Sorrell has been featured on *Living the Classical Life*, and has attracted international attention for her “storytelling” approach to early music, which has brought 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 baroque audiences in North America.

With over 24 million views of their YouTube videos, Sorrell and Apollo’s Fire have released 34 commercial CDs, of which 13 have been bestsellers on Billboard Classical. Sorrell won a GRAMMY® in 2019 and was nominated for a second GRAMMY in 2025. 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” (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).

Sorrell received a lifetime achievement award in 2026 from the American Sephardi Federation for contributions to the field of Sephardic music. 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, 490 words]

GRAMMY®-winning conductor Jeannette Sorrell is recognized internationally as one of today’s finest interpreters of Baroque and Classical repertoire. The daughter of a European immigrant father and an American mother, 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; 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.

As a guest conductor, Sorrell made her New York Philharmonic debut in 2021 to rave reviews and will return there for the fourth time in 2026. She has repeatedly conducted the Pittsburgh Symphony, Detroit Symphony, St Paul Chamber Orchestra, Seattle Symphony, Utah Symphony, Los Angeles Chamber Orchestra, Indianapolis Symphony, Florida Orchestra, Philharmonia Baroque in San Francisco, and New World Symphony, and has also led the Philadelphia Orchestra, Manchester Hallé Orchestra, Royal Scottish National Orchestra, Royal Liverpool Philharmonic, Festival Orchestra of Lincoln Center (NYC), Baltimore Symphony, National Symphony at the Kennedy Center, Houston Symphony, Oregon Symphony, Opera St Louis with the St Louis Symphony, and the National Arts Centre Orchestra (Ottawa), among others.

In 2026-27 she returns to the New York Philharmonic and New World Symphony, and makes several debuts including the Deutsches Symphonie-Orchester in Berlin; and debuts in Paris and Brussels with Apollo's Fire.

Sorrell has been featured on *Living the Classical Life*, and has won international attention for her "storytelling" approach to early music, which has brought many new listeners to the genre.

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, including Carnegie Hall and London's BBC Proms and Wigmore Hall. With 24 million views of their YouTube videos, Sorrell and Apollo's Fire have released 34 commercial CDs, including 13 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). Her Monteverdi *Vespers* recording was chosen by **BBC Music Magazine** as one of "30 Must-Have Recordings for Our Lifetime" (2022). Her discography also includes the complete Brandenburg Concerti of Bach (Billboard Classical Top 10 in 2012), four discs of Mozart, Handel's *Messiah*, and five creative multicultural projects, including *Sephardic Journey* (Billboard #2).

Sorrell received a lifetime achievement award in 2026 from the American Sephardi Federation, for contributions to the field of Sephardic music. She holds an Artist Diploma from Oberlin Conservatory, an honorary doctorate from Case Western University and an award from the American Musicological Society.

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

As a guest conductor, Sorrell has led the New York Philharmonic three times in the last four years. She has also repeatedly conducted the Pittsburgh Symphony, Detroit Symphony, St Paul Chamber Orchestra, Seattle Symphony, Utah Symphony, Los Angeles Chamber Orchestra, Indianapolis 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, Hallé Orchestra Manchester, Festival Orchestra of Lincoln Center (NYC), the National Symphony at the Kennedy Center, Houston Symphony, Baltimore Symphony, Oregon Symphony, Opera St Louis with the St Louis Symphony, and the National Arts Centre Orchestra (Ottawa), among others.

In 2026-27 she returns to the New York Philharmonic and New World Symphony, and makes several debuts including the Deutsches Symphonie-Orchester in Berlin.

As founder and conductor of APOLLO'S FIRE, she has led the renowned ensemble at London's BBC Proms, Carnegie Hall, the Madrid Royal Theatre, St Martin-in-the Fields, Library of Congress, and many international venues. Sorrell and Apollo's Fire have released 34 commercial CDs, including 13 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). Her Monteverdi *Vespers* recording was chosen by **BBC Music Magazine** as one of "30 Must-Have Recordings for Our Lifetime" (2022). Other albums include the complete Brandenburg Concerti of Bach (Billboard Classical Top 10 in 2012), and four discs of Mozart, and five creative multicultural programs.

With 24 million views of her YouTube videos, Sorrell has attracted national attention and awards for creative programming, including a lifetime achievement award from the American Sephardi Federation for her work in Sephardic music.

[Version 4: Very Short – 336 words]

GRAMMY®-winning conductor Jeannette Sorrell is recognized internationally as one of today's finest interpreters of Baroque and Classical repertoire. She is the subject of Oscar-winning director Allan

Miller's documentary, *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, 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 four continents.

As a guest conductor, Sorrell has repeatedly led the New York Philharmonic, Pittsburgh Symphony, Detroit Symphony, St Paul Chamber Orchestra, Seattle Symphony, Utah Symphony, Los Angeles Chamber Orchestra, Indianapolis Symphony, the 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, Hallé Orchestra Manchester, Baltimore Symphony, the National Symphony at the Kennedy Center, Oregon Symphony, New Jersey Symphony, National Arts Center Chamber Orchestra (Ottawa), and Houston Symphony, among others.

This season she returns to the New York Philharmonic and New World Symphony, and makes debuts with the Deutsches Symphonie-Orchester Berlin and the Kansas City Symphony, among others.

As founder and conductor of APOLLO'S FIRE, she has led the renowned ensemble at London's BBC Proms, Carnegie Hall, Tanglewood, and many international venues. Sorrell and Apollo's Fire have released 34 commercial CDs, 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). Her Monteverdi *Vespers* recording was chosen by **BBC Music Magazine** as one of "30 Must-Have Recordings for Our Lifetime" (2022).

With 24 million views of her YouTube videos, Sorrell has attracted national attention and awards for creative programming, particularly her multicultural programs. She was nominated for a second GRAMMY award in 2025.

[Version 5: Extra Short – 250 words]

GRAMMY-winning conductor **Jeannette Sorrell** is recognized internationally as one of today's finest Baroque and Classical specialists. 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*.

Bridging the period-instrument and symphonic worlds from a young age, she studied conducting under Leonard Bernstein and Roger Norrington at the Tanglewood and Aspen music festivals; and studied harpsichord with Gustav Leonhardt in Amsterdam.

As a guest conductor, Sorrell has repeatedly led the New York Philharmonic, Detroit Symphony, Pittsburgh Symphony, St Paul Chamber Orchestra, Seattle Symphony, Utah Symphony, Los Angeles

Chamber Orchestra, Indianapolis Symphony, Philharmonia Baroque in San Francisco, and New World Symphony; and has also led the Philadelphia Orchestra, Royal Scottish National Orchestra, Royal Liverpool Philharmonic, Manchester Hallé Orchestra, Baltimore Symphony, the National Symphony at the Kennedy Center, Houston Symphony, and Oregon Symphony, among others. This season she returns to the New York Philharmonic and New World Symphony, and makes several debuts including the Deutsches Symphonie-Orchester in Berlin.

Sorrell is the founder and Artistic Director of the renowned period-instrument orchestra APOLLO'S FIRE, with whom she has 34 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 24 million views of her YouTube videos, Sorrell was nominated for a second GRAMMY in 2025.