

MANFRED HONECK

Short Biography September 2026

Manfred Honeck has firmly established himself as one of the world's leading conductors, renowned for his distinctive interpretations that have garnered international acclaim. As Music Director of the Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra, where he is now in his 19th season, he continues to shape the Orchestra's artistic identity with a deep sense of purpose and passion. His tenure, recently extended through the 2032–2033 season, has seen the Orchestra flourish artistically while strengthening its role as a cultural ambassador for the city of Pittsburgh.

Beginning with the 2028–29 season, he will become the seventh Principal Conductor of the Philharmonia Orchestra in London, which will serve as his artistic anchor in Europe. Across the Atlantic, he will also take on the role of Festival Director of the San Francisco Symphony, starting that same season with a five-year term to create his own annual, multi-week festival exploring universal elements of the human experience.

Born in Austria, Manfred Honeck completed his musical training at the Academy of Music in Vienna. His many years as a member of the Vienna Philharmonic and the Vienna State Opera Orchestra have had a lasting influence on his work as a conductor. He began his conducting career as an assistant to Claudio Abbado and was subsequently engaged by the Zurich Opera House, where he was awarded the prestigious European Conductor's Award. Following early posts with the MDR Symphony Orchestra in Leipzig and the Oslo Philharmonic Orchestra, he served as Music Director of the Swedish Radio Symphony Orchestra in Stockholm and as Music Director of the Staatsoper Stuttgart.

As a guest conductor, Manfred Honeck works with the world's most prestigious orchestras, including the Bavarian Radio Symphony Orchestra, the Berlin Philharmonic, the Gewandhausorchester Leipzig, the Staatskapelle Dresden, the Royal Concertgebouw Orchestra, the Philharmonia Orchestra, and the Accademia Nazionale di Santa Cecilia. In the United States, he has conducted all of the nation's leading orchestras: the New York Philharmonic, the Boston Symphony Orchestra, the Chicago Symphony Orchestra, the Philadelphia Orchestra and the Cleveland Orchestra, the Los Angeles Philharmonic, and the San Francisco Symphony. He also maintains a distinguished profile as an opera conductor: most recently, he returned to the Salzburg Festival in summer 2026, conducting *Ariadne auf Naxos* with the Vienna Philharmonic.

In the 2026–27 season, he will commemorate the 200th anniversary of Ludwig van Beethoven's death with special programs and a new commission from Jüri Reinvere, to be presented worldwide.

Manfred Honeck holds honorary doctorates from several US universities. In 2026, he received the Julio Kilenyi Medal of Honor in recognition of his distinguished interpretations of Anton Bruckner's masterworks.

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