



Foto: Christophe Abramowitz

2000–2007 he was Principal Conductor of the London Philharmonic. From 1991–2002 he was Music Director of the New York Philharmonic; following his eleven year tenure he was named Music Director Emeritus, becoming the first New York Philharmonic music director to receive that title. The New York Philharmonic established the “Kurt Masur Fund for the Orchestra”, which will endow conductor debut week at the Philharmonic in perpetuity in his honor. From 1970 until 1996, Maestro Masur served as Gewandhaus *Kapellmeister* of the Leipzig Gewandhaus Orchestra, a position of profound historic importance. Upon his retirement from that post in 1996, the Gewandhaus named him its first-ever Conductor Laureate. Since 1992 he has held the lifetime title of Honorary Guest Conductor of the Israel Philharmonic Orchestra.

A frequent guest with the world’s leading orchestras, Kurt Masur made his United States debut in 1974 with the Cleveland Orchestra; also that year he took the Gewandhaus Orchestra on its first American tour. He made his New York Philharmonic debut in 1981. Maestro Masur returns every season to the United States to conduct the major American orchestras such as the New York Philharmonic, the Boston Symphony Orchestra, the Cleveland Orchestra, the Philadelphia Orchestra, the Chicago Symphony and the National Symphony Orchestra in Washington D.C. In Europe, Maestro Masur works with such orchestras as the Gewandhaus Orchestra, the Dresden Philharmonic, the Concertgebouw Orchestra, the Berlin Philharmonic, the Orchestra of the Santa Cecilia in Rome, the Orchestras of Teatro La Scala and La Fenice, the London Philharmonic and many others.

Maestro Masur has made more than thirty recordings with the New York Philharmonic for Teldec Classics International, two of those winning “Record of the Year” awards from Stereo review (Shostakovich’s *Symphony No. 13*, *Babi Yar*, and Mahler’s *Ninth Symphony*).

For Deutsche Grammophon, he, the New York Philharmonic, and Anne-Sophie Mutter recorded a Grammy nominated album of Brahms and Schumann and Beethoven’s *Violin Concerto* and two romances. He has made well over 100 other recordings with numerous orchestras, including the complete symphonies of Beethoven, Brahms, Bruckner, Mendelssohn, Schumann, and Tchaikovsky. With the London Philharmonic he created their own record label and released recordings of Shostakovich *Symphonies No. 1 and 5* and the *War Requiem* by Benjamin Britten.