

Leila Josefowicz



Violinist Leila Josefowicz has won the hearts of audiences around the world with her honest, fresh approach to the repertoire and her dynamic virtuosity.

Josefowicz made her Carnegie Hall debut at the age of 16 and immediately followed this with her debut recording of the Tchaikovsky and the Sibelius concertos for Philips Classics. Since that time she has appeared with many of the world's most prestigious orchestras and conductors. A regular, close collaborator with leading composers of the day such as John Adams and Oliver Knussen, Josefowicz is a strong advocate of new music – a characteristic which is reflected in her diverse programmes and her enthusiasm to première new works. During the 2008/09 and 2009/10 seasons, she will premiere violin concertos written for her by Steve Mackey (with the BBC Philharmonic and the St Louis Symphony Orchestra), Colin Matthews and Esa-Pekka Salonen.

Highlights of the previous season included performances with the BBC Symphony, Czech Philharmonic, Hong Kong Philharmonic and the Orchestre National Bordeaux Aquitaine. Earlier seasons have seen Josefowicz at the Salzburg Festival and on tour around Europe with the London Symphony Orchestra (performing John Adams' concerto for Electric Violin *The Dharma at Big Sur* under the composer's baton). She has also recently performed the Knussen Concerto with the Leipzig Gewandhaus and given its Dutch premiere with the Royal Concertgebouw Orchestra in Amsterdam. In 2003, she was the soloist at the prestigious 'Last Night of the Proms' at the Royal Albert Hall in London, where she returned for Prom concerts in 2005, 2006 and 2007.

In the 2008/09 season, Josefowicz gives concerts with the Finnish Radio Symphony and Bournemouth Symphony orchestras, as well as working with the Iceland Symphony Orchestra. She also gives frequent recitals and has played in Poland, Germany, Spain and Macedonia, as well as at London's Barbican Centre, with her regular collaborator John Novacek.

Josefowicz's most recent engagements in North America included return visits to the Los Angeles Philharmonic and Minnesota Orchestra, as well as her subscription debut with the Chicago Symphony, performing the Knussen Concerto with Esa-Pekka Salonen. She has also given recitals in San Francisco, Pittsburgh, Los Angeles and at the Zankel Hall in New York. During the 2008/09 season, Josefowicz returns to the Pittsburgh, Montreal and National symphony orchestras, as well as giving concerts with the Los Angeles Philharmonic, Philadelphia Orchestra and San Francisco Symphony.

No stranger to television, Josefowicz has appeared on numerous broadcasts in the US, and in January 2002, her highly-acclaimed performance of John Adams' Violin Concerto with the BBC Symphony at the John Adams Festival was televised and broadcast by the BBC throughout Europe. Directed by the composer himself, the work was later taken on tour to Paris and Brussels, and a live recording was released on the new BBC label.

Josefowicz's most recent release is her recording of the Knussen Violin Concerto with the BBC Symphony Orchestra, conducted by the composer, from the 2007 Proms. Earlier

recordings include a recital disc with John Novacek, praised for its eclectic programme and outstanding quality of playing; and a live recording of Shostakovich's Violin Concerto No. 1 with the CBSO and Sakari Oramo, noted for its passionate expressivity and spontaneity – both highly acclaimed releases of the Warner Classics label. Earlier recordings include her debut disc of Tchaikovsky and Sibelius with Sir Neville Marriner, followed in 1996 by *Solo*, which features unaccompanied violin works by Bartók, Kreisler, Ysaye, Ernst and Paganini. Both releases, which were for Philips/Universal, were awarded the Diapason d'Or prize. Also released on Philips/Universal were *Bohemian Rhapsodies*, a collection of virtuosic violin works with orchestra, *For the End of Time* and *Americana* with pianist John Novacek, and the Mendelssohn, Glazunov and Prokofiev concertos with the Montreal Symphony under Charles Dutoit. In addition, Josefowicz performs the title track on John Adams' album *Road Movies* (Nonesuch), which was nominated for a Grammy Award.

Josefowicz was awarded a prestigious MacArthur Fellowship in 2008, joining prominent scientists, writers and musicians who have made unique contributions to contemporary life. A recipient of the prestigious Avery Fisher Career Grant in 1994 and a USA Cummings Fellow, Leila Josefowicz plays on a 1724 Guarneri del Gesu violin.

For more information, please visit www.leilajosefowicz.com or www.warnerclassics.com

2008/09 season only. Please contact HarrisonParrott if you wish to edit this biography.