

## Leila Josefowicz

“Josefowicz shimmied and gave the orchestra sass. The writing here is extraordinarily difficult, and she was on fire”

– Mark Swed, *Los Angeles Times*, April 2009



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; since that time she has appeared with many of the world's most prestigious orchestras and conductors. A 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 perform new works.

2009 saw the world premieres of two concerti written especially for Josefowicz by Esa-Pekka Salonen and Colin Matthews. She performed Salonen's Violin Concerto with the Los Angeles Philharmonic under the composer's baton, and then subsequently performed this piece with the Swedish Radio Symphony Orchestra at Stockholm's Baltic Sea Festival and the Klara Festival in Brussels. She gave the premiere of Matthews's Violin Concerto with the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra and will perform the French premiere of this work with the Orchestre Nationale de Lyon in November. Future performances are also planned in Frankfurt, Katowice and Helsinki. She gave the premiere of Steven Mackey's *Beautiful Passing* with the BBC Philharmonic in October 2008.

Previous seasons have seen Josefowicz playing at the Salzburg Festival and on tour around Europe with the London Symphony Orchestra (performing John Adams's concerto for electric violin *The Dharma at Big Sur*). She also performed Knussen's Violin Concerto with the Gewandhausorchester Leipzig, and gave its Dutch premiere with the Royal Concertgebouw Orchestra in Amsterdam. In 2003, she was the soloist at the prestigious 'Last Night of the BBC Proms' and returned to the festival in 2005, 2006 and 2007. This season, she will perform with the Wiener Symphoniker, Warsaw Philharmonic and Mozarteum Orchester Salzburg. Other key engagements in 2010 include a European tour with the Swedish Chamber Orchestra and HK Gruber, as well as concerts with the Tonhalle-Orchester and Knussen; the Mahler Chamber Orchestra and Salonen; and La Verdi under Xian Zhang in Milan.

In the US, Josefowicz gave her subscription debut with the Chicago Symphony Orchestra in 2008 and last season returned to the San Francisco, Pittsburgh and Montreal Symphony Orchestras, as well as performing with the Philadelphia Orchestra. This season she plays with the Los Angeles Philharmonic at their California Festival (curated by John Adams) as well as with the National Symphony Orchestra, Washington, Cleveland Orchestra, and the New York Philharmonic.

She also gives recitals with her regular collaborator John Novacek and, most recently, they performed together at the Schwetzingen Festspiele. In the US, she has given recitals in San Francisco, Pittsburgh, Los Angeles and at the Zankel Hall in New York.

Josefowicz's latest release is a live recording of the Knussen Violin Concerto with the BBC Symphony Orchestra, conducted by the composer at the BBC Proms. Earlier recordings

include two highly acclaimed discs on the Warner Classics label – a recital disc with John Novacek and a live recording of Shostakovich's Violin Concerto No.1 with the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra and Sakari Oramo. On the Philips/Universal label, her debut disc of Tchaikovsky and Sibelius with Sir Neville Marriner and 'Solo' (featuring unaccompanied violin works by Bartók, Kreisler, Ysaÿe, Ernst and Paganini) were both awarded the Diapason d'Or prize. Other releases include '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 Orchestra 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](http://www.leilajosefowicz.com)

2009/10 season only. Please contact HarrisonParrott if you wish to edit this biography.