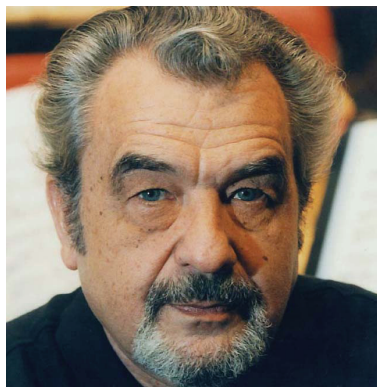


# HarrisonParrott

Artist and Project Management

## Walter Weller



Walter Weller was born in Vienna and became a member of the Wiener Philharmoniker at the age of 17. The following year he founded the Weller Quartet which many distinguished recordings during its ten year existence. In 1961 Walter Weller became First Konzertmeister of the Wiener Philharmoniker and in 1966 made his debut as a conductor. In 1969 he signed a long-term contract with the Vienna Staatsoper which enabled him to acquire a very extensive operatic repertoire.

Since the 2007/08 season, Walter Weller has held the post of Music Director of the Orchestre National de Belgique. He was Music Director and Principal Conductor of the Royal Scottish National Orchestra (1992-1997) and is now their

Conductor Emeritus; together they have made highly successful tours of Germany, Austria and Switzerland. Weller is also Conductor Laureate to the Stuttgarter Philharmoniker and holds the position of Associate Director with the Orchestra of Valencia, Spain. Previous positions include Artistic Director of the Allgemeine Musikgesellschaft Basel, General Music Director of the Basel Theatre and Chief Conductor of the Sinfonieorchester Basel (1994-1997), Principal Conductor of the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra (1980-1985) and Music Director and Artistic Director of the Royal Liverpool Philharmonic Orchestra (1977-1980).

Weller regularly conducts major orchestras throughout the world and has worked with the London Symphony Orchestra, Philharmonia Orchestra, BBC Symphony Orchestra, City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra, Dresden Staatskapelle, Rundfunk Sinfonieorchester Berlin, Orchestre Philharmonique de Strasbourg and WDR Sinfonieorchester Cologne. He has also worked with the Gewandhausorchester Leipzig, Orchestre de Paris, Royal Concertgebouw Orchestra, Orchestre Philharmonique de Monte Carlo, and has a regular relationship with both the orchestra of RTVE Madrid and Trondheim Symfoniorkester. Forthcoming highlights include the Göteborgs Symfoniker, Orchestre de la Suisse Romande, and the BBC National Orchestra of Wales. He will also tour Spain with the Orchestre National de Belgique.

Walter Weller's operatic engagements have included *Der Fliegende Holländer* at La Scala, *Ariadne auf Naxos* and *Der Fliegende Holländer* for English National Opera, a new production of *Der Freischütz* at Teatro Comunale, Bologna, a new production of *Prince Igor* for the Berlin Staatskapelle, and *Fidelio* and *Der Rosenkavalier* for Scottish Opera. In February 2004 he conducted a new production of *Così fan tutte* with Opera de Monte Carlo (directed by John Cox) and returned to the house for *Der Rosenkavalier* in 2006/07.

Weller's extensive discography includes recordings with Decca, EMI, Collins Classics and Chandos Records, with whom he recorded all the Beethoven Symphonies (including Beethoven Symphony No.10) with the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra. With the National Orchestre National de Belgique he has recorded Glazunov's Symphony No. 5 and Strauss's *Ein Heldenleben* for the Fuga Libera label.

In 1998, Walter Weller was awarded the great Silver Cross of Honour for Services to the Republic of Austria which in the past has also been awarded to Josef Kripps and Herbert von Karajan. He has also been awarded the Beethoven Society Medal, Austria, the Mozart Interpretation Award, Salzburg and in 1999 a medal from the Cambridge Biographical Centre for Outstanding People of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century.

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