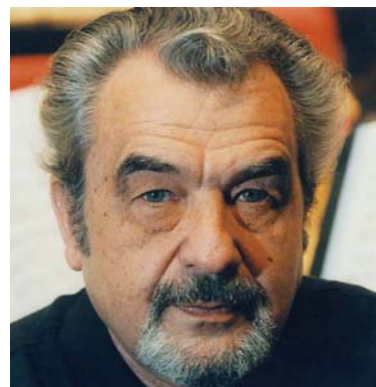


Walter Weller

Walter Weller was born in Vienna and became a member of the Vienna Philharmonic Orchestra at the age of 17. The following year he founded the Weller Quartet which became internationally famous during its ten year existence and made many distinguished recordings. In 1961 Walter Weller became first Konzertmeister of the Vienna Philharmonic 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 to the National Orchestra of Belgium and has toured to Spain in addition to concerts in Amsterdam and Rotterdam. Walter Weller was Music Director and Principal Conductor of the Royal Scottish National Orchestra (1992-1997) and is now Conductor Emeritus. Together they have made highly successful tours of Germany, Austria and Switzerland. Mr Weller has been bestowed the title of Conductor Laureate to the Stuttgart Philharmonic Orchestra and also 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 Basel Symphony Orchestra (1994-1997), Principal Conductor of the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra (1980-1985) and Music Director and Artistic Director to the Royal Liverpool Philharmonic (1977-1980).

Mr Weller is regularly invited as guest conductor by major orchestras throughout the world and has worked with the London Symphony Orchestra, Philharmonia Orchestra, BBC Symphony Orchestra, Dresden Staatskapelle, RSO Berlin, Leipzig Gewandhaus, Orchestre de Paris, Royal Concertgebouw Orchestra, WDR Köln and has a regular relationship with both RTVE Madrid and Trondheim Symphony Orchestra. Forthcoming highlights include the Orchestre de la Suisse Romande, City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra, Orchestre Philharmonique de Monte Carlo, BBC National Orchestra of Wales, Gothenburg Symphony and Strasbourg Philharmonic Orchestras.

Mr 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 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 for *Der Rosenkavalier* in 2006/07.

Mr 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 Orchestra of Belgium he has recorded Glazunov's Symphony No. 5 and Strauss's *Ein Heldenleben* for the Fuga Libera label.

On the 22nd December 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 20th Century.

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