Robert Spano
Conductor

“Mr. Spano drew a glowing, spacious performance of this Brahms masterwork from the orchestra, marking a great return visit for both him and this essential ensemble.”
*The New York Times*

Robert Spano, conductor, pianist, composer and teacher, is known worldwide for the intensity of his artistry and distinctive communicative abilities. Beginning his 19th season as Music Director of the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra and first season as Principal Guest Conductor of the Fort Worth Symphony Orchestra, this highly imaginative conductor is an approachable artist with the innate ability to share his enthusiasm for music. A fervent mentor to rising artists, he is responsible for nurturing the careers of numerous celebrated composers, conductors, and performers. As Music Director of the Aspen Music Festival and School since 2011, he oversees the programming of more than 300 events and educational programs for 630 students and young performers.

Highlights of the 2019/20 season include a return to the Dallas Symphony Orchestra, conducting the world premiere of George Tsontakis’s Violin Concerto No. 3. Robert returns to the Indianapolis and Singapore Symphonies and the BBC Symphony Orchestra for the world premiere of Dimitrios Skyllas’s *Kyrie eleison*. Conducting debuts include the NHK Symphony Orchestra, Auckland Philharmonia and Wroclaw Philharmonic. As the newly appointed Principal Guest Conductor of the Fort Worth Symphony, Spano appears in the orchestra’s Symphonic Series to conduct two concert weekends.

With the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra, programs include Robert’s quintessentially rich, diverse pairings of contemporary works and cherished classics. The orchestra’s 75th season features 16 ASO premieres, including works by living American composers Krists Auznieks, Jessie Montgomery and Joby Talbot and two world premieres by Richard Prior and Brian Nabors. In celebration of Beethoven’s 250th birthday, the ASO and Chorus travels to Carnegie Hall in April 2020 to perform the *Missa solemnis*. The season will conclude with the Atlanta premiere of *Tristan und Isolde*.

The 2018-2019 season featured Mr. Spano’s highly acclaimed Metropolitan Opera debut, leading the US premiere of *Marnie*, the second opera by American composer Nico Muhly and the conclusion of the ASO’s two-year “LB/LB” celebration commemorating Leonard Bernstein and Ludwig van Beethoven. This celebration featured six Bernstein works and nine Beethoven Symphonies as well as vocal masterpieces including *Otello*, *Fidelio* and *Candide*.

In addition to his leadership of the ASO, Spano recently returned to his early love of composing. His most recent works include *Sonata: Four Elements* for piano, premiered by Spano in August and a song cycle, *Hölderlin-Lieder*, for soprano Jessica Rivera. Both works were recorded on the ASO Media label.

Guest engagements have included the Cleveland, Philadelphia, and Minnesota Orchestras, New York and Los Angeles Philharmonics, and the San Francisco, Chicago and Utah Symphonies. Internationally, Maestro Spano has led the Orchestra Filarmonica della Scala, BBC Symphony, Royal Concertgebouw Orchestra and Melbourne Symphony.  His opera performances include Covent Garden, Welsh National Opera, Lyric Opera of Chicago, Houston Grand Opera, and the 2005 and 2009 Seattle Opera productions of Wagner’s Ring cycles.

With a discography of critically-acclaimed recordings for Telarc, Deutsche Grammophon, and ASO Media, Robert Spano has garnered six Grammy™ Awards with the Atlanta Symphony. Spano is on faculty at Oberlin Conservatory and has received honorary doctorates from Bowling Green State University, the Curtis Institute of Music, Emory University and Oberlin.