

## Lineage of Milwaukee Symphony Orchestra Music Directors

**Harry John Brown (1961 – 1968)** – Brown became the first music director in 1961 and quickly cemented the MSO's reputation in the Milwaukee community. Brown was instrumental in hiring the orchestra's first full-time musicians and the progressive expansion of the number of performances, including performances for children.

**Kenneth Schermerhorn (1968-1980)** – During his tenure, he collaborated with Margaret Hawkins on the formation of the Milwaukee Symphony Chorus, built an outstanding reputation for the young orchestra, and took the MSO to the East Coast and Carnegie Hall for the first time.

**Lukas Foss (1981-1986)** – The noted composer, conductor, and pianist expanded the MSO's repertoire to include greater emphasis on contemporary and American music as well as lesser-known works of traditional composers. The Foss era included festivals celebrating the music of Bernstein and Copland (both attended by the composers), the recording of two albums, and the MSO's first European tour.

**Zdenek Mácal (1987-1995)** – Mácal took the orchestra on a critically-acclaimed East Coast tour in 1989, which included performances at the Kennedy Center in Washington, D.C., and Carnegie Hall in New York. In 1992, Mácal garnered international attention when he took the MSO on a major tour to Japan. He also continued the MSO's recording tradition, and during his tenure the MSO's concerts were broadcast on more than 240 radio stations.

**Andreas Delfs (1997 – 2009)** – Delfs's tenure brought renewed commitment to community outreach and expansion of the MSO's strong artistic foundations. In 1999, he led the orchestra to Cuba, the first major orchestra to visit in nearly 40 years. The MSO also became known as a purveyor of new music with annual performances of world premiere pieces and commissioned works. Delfs's era also brought multiple recordings and technological advancements. In 2005, the MSO became the first American orchestra to distribute its own live recordings through online stores including iTunes.

**Edo de Waart (2009 – 2017, current music director laureate)** – The de Waart era with the MSO included sold-out concerts, critical acclaim, and a celebrated performance at Carnegie Hall in 2012 for the Spring for Music Festival. Known as an orchestra builder, de Waart hired one-third of the current musicians in the MSO. In 2014-2016, the MSO presented a complete examination of the Mozart-da Ponte operas to rave reviews from critics and audiences alike. The innovative productions highlighted the role of the orchestra while also bringing in an exceptional cast of singers. In May 2016, the MSO released recordings of all four of the Brahms symphonies.

**Ken-David Masur (2018-)** – Masur debuted with the Milwaukee Symphony Orchestra in May 2018 with a critically acclaimed concert that included Ravel's *Daphnis et Chloé*, Vaughan Williams's *Flos campi*, and Augusta Read Thomas's *Radiant Circles*. Masur was immediately engaged to return in September 2018 to open the MSO's 60<sup>th</sup> season with Brahms's Symphony No. 2 and Rachmaninoff's Concerto No. 2 with Boris Giltburg.