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## PAVEL KOGAN

### Biography

Maestro Pavel Kogan's career--spanned over 40 years and five continents-- has made him one of the most respected and widely recognized Russian conductors of our time.

He was born into a distinguished musical family: his parents are legendary violinists Leonid Kogan and Elizaveta Gilels and his uncle is the inimitable pianist Emil Gilels. From an early age Maestro Kogan's artistic development was divided between conducting and violin. He was granted special permission to study both disciplines at the same time--an extreme rarity in the Soviet Union.

In 1970, eighteen-year-old Pavel Kogan, then a violin pupil of Yuri Yankelevich at the Moscow Conservatory, won 1<sup>st</sup> prize in the Sibelius Violin Competition in Helsinki, catapulting his violin career which took him to concert halls around the world. Forty years after his win, a panel of judges was asked to determine the most impressive winner in the 45-year history of the Sibelius competition for the newspaper *Helsingin Sanomat*. A unanimous vote put Maestro Kogan in the coveted spot, surpassing decades worth of violin virtuosos.

As a conducting pupil of Ilya Musin and Leo Ginsburg, in 1972 the young Maestro gave his debut with the USSR State Symphony Orchestra and subsequently turned his focus to conducting. In the years that followed, he conducted the leading Soviet orchestras both at home and on tour abroad at the invitation of Mravinsky, Kondrashin, Svetlanov and Rozhdestvensky.

As conductor of the Bolshoi Opera, Kogan opened the 1988 season with a new production of Verdi's *La Traviata*. That same year he became the head of the Zagreb Philharmonic Orchestra.

In 1989, Kogan was appointed the Music Director and Chief Conductor of the eminent Moscow State Symphony Orchestra (MSSO) and has been there since, building it into one of Russia's most widely known and highly acclaimed orchestras.

Maestro Kogan has also appeared with many prominent orchestras including the St. Petersburg Philharmonic Orchestra, Moscow Philharmonic Orchestra, USSR State Radio & TV Symphony Orchestra, Philadelphia Orchestra, Los Angeles Philharmonic, Bavarian Radio Symphony Orchestra, Munich Philharmonic, Orchestre National de Belgique, Helsinki Philharmonic Orchestra, RTVE Symphony Orchestra, Toronto Symphony Orchestra, Staatskapelle Dresden, Orquesta Filarmónica de Buenos Aires, L'Orchestre de la Suisse Romande, Orchestre National de France, Houston Symphony, Orchestre National du Capitole de Toulouse and the Luxembourg Philharmonic Orchestra. From 1998-2005 he served as principal guest conductor of the Utah Symphony Orchestra.

Pavel Kogan has recorded countless works with the MSSO and other ensembles, recordings which have been a major contribution to the world's musical culture. Many of his albums have garnered great acclaim from critics and audiences alike. His recording of the Rachmaninoff cycle (Symphonies 1, 2, 3, Symphonic Dances, "Isle of the Dead," "Vocalize & Scherzo") was hailed as "...sparkly, strongly communicative Rachmaninoff... vibrant, soulful and involving." (*Gramophone*)

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Maestro Kogan was awarded the State Prize of the Russian Federation for his performance of the complete symphonies and vocal cycles of Gustav Mahler. He is a member of the Russian Academy of Arts, recipient of the “Order of Merit” of Russia, the “Peoples’ Artist of Russia” award, and is a Chevalier de L’Ordre des Arts et des Lettres, among many other international accolades.

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