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Jaime Laredo—Violinist and Conductor

PROGRAM BIOGRAPHY

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"...music-making of unusually high quality - the sort of playing which comes only from understanding, love, painstaking care, and, quite simply, great ability."

- The Guardian, London

Jaime Laredo

Performing for over six decades before audiences across the globe, Jaime Laredo has excelled in the multiple roles of soloist, conductor, recitalist, pedagogue, and chamber musician. Since his stunning orchestral debut at the age of eleven with the San Francisco Symphony, he has won the admiration and respect of audiences, critics, and fellow musicians with his passionate and polished performances. That debut inspired one critic to write: "In the 1920's it was Yehudi Menuhin; in the 1930's it was Isaac Stern; and last night it was Jaime Laredo." His education and development were greatly influenced by his teachers Josef Gingold and Ivan Galamian, as well as by private coaching with eminent masters Pablo Casals and George Szell. At the age of seventeen, Jaime Laredo won the prestigious Queen Elisabeth of Belgium Competition, launching his rise to international prominence. With 2009 marking the 50th anniversary of his prize, he was honored to sit on the Jury for the final round of the Competition and he has returned to serve on the jury in subsequent seasons.

In the 2023-24 season, Laredo tours the United States as conductor and soloist at venues including the Kennedy Center and Carnegie Hall and as chamber musician for the first full season of *Espressivo!*, a new piano quartet. For over 45 years, Laredo appeared as a member of the beloved Kalichstein-Laredo-Robinson Trio, which leaves a lasting legacy of commissions and premieres, including recent performances with violist/composer Nokuthula Ngwenyama and her piano quartet, "Elegy," written specifically for them in response to the tragic events of 2020, as well as the New York and Washington, DC premiere of "Abgang and Kaddish" with clarinetist David Shifrin, written by Pulitzer Prize-winning composer Ellen Zwilich.

Other conducting and performing highlights include the Chicago, Boston, Pittsburgh, and San Francisco Symphonies, Los Angeles and New York Philharmonics, Cleveland and Philadelphia Orchestras, among many others. Acclaimed premieres of Double Concertos by André Previn and Christopher Brubeck, written specifically for Laredo and Robinson, are particularly memorable. Abroad, he has appeared with the London and BBC Symphonies, Scottish Chamber Orchestra, with which he made numerous best-selling recordings, as well as orchestras in France, Hong Kong and Japan.

Laredo has recorded nearly one hundred discs, including a Grammy Award-winning disc of Brahms Piano Quartets with Emanuel Ax, Isaac Stern and Yo-Yo Ma. His recordings range from the complete Bach Sonatas with Glenn Gould (SONY Classical) to recent premiere recordings of double concertos with violinist Jennifer Koh, "2x4" (Cedille Records) and with Sharon Robinson, "Triple Doubles" (BRIDGE), and award-winning recordings with The Kalichstein-Laredo-Robinson Trio. Most recent is the acclaimed 2023 Signum Records release of Stanley Silverman's Trio No. 2, "Reveille" with special guest Sting. In 2021, a 23-CD Box Set on

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was released on Sony Classical and five episodes of *Exploring Music* aired on WFMT, both celebrating Laredo's extraordinary legacy.

Laredo and Robinson have greatly added to the double concerto canon with works written specifically for them by Richard Danielpour, David Ludwig, André Previn, Ned Rorem, Chris Brubeck, and Ellen Zwilich, among others. In past seasons, Mr. Laredo and Ms. Robinson performed in recital in the US, Canada and on tour in Bolivia, including performances of Richard Danielpour's "Inventions on a Marriage." The 2011 work was commissioned specifically for the duo and was dedicated to and inspired by their marriage and explores in "musical snapshots" the bond of long-term relationships.

Laredo's stewardships of the annual New York String Orchestra Seminar at Carnegie Hall and the International Violin Competition of Indianapolis have become beloved educational pillars of the string community. He is Co-Artistic Director of Cincinnati's Linton Chamber Music and the Hudson Valley Chamber Music Circle. He recently completed twenty years as Music Director of the Vermont Symphony and held the post of Artistic Director of the Chamber Music at the Y series in New York for forty years, where he created an important forum for chamber music performances and developed a devoted following. 2023 marks Laredo's 12th year on the faculty of the Cleveland Institute of Music.

A principal figure at the Marlboro Music Festival in years past, he has also been involved at Tanglewood, Aspen, Ravinia, Mostly Mozart, and the Hollywood Bowl, as well as festivals in Italy, Spain, Finland, Greece, Israel, Austria, Switzerland, England, Korea, and Taiwan.

Born in Bolivia, Jaime Laredo resides in Vermont and Ohio with his wife, cellist Sharon Robinson.

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Jaime Laredo's recordings can be found on the CBS, RCA, KOCH International, Dorian, SONY, Azica, Bridge and Signum labels. Please visit his Facebook page (@jaimelaredoofficial) for additional information about touring, recordings, and special projects.

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