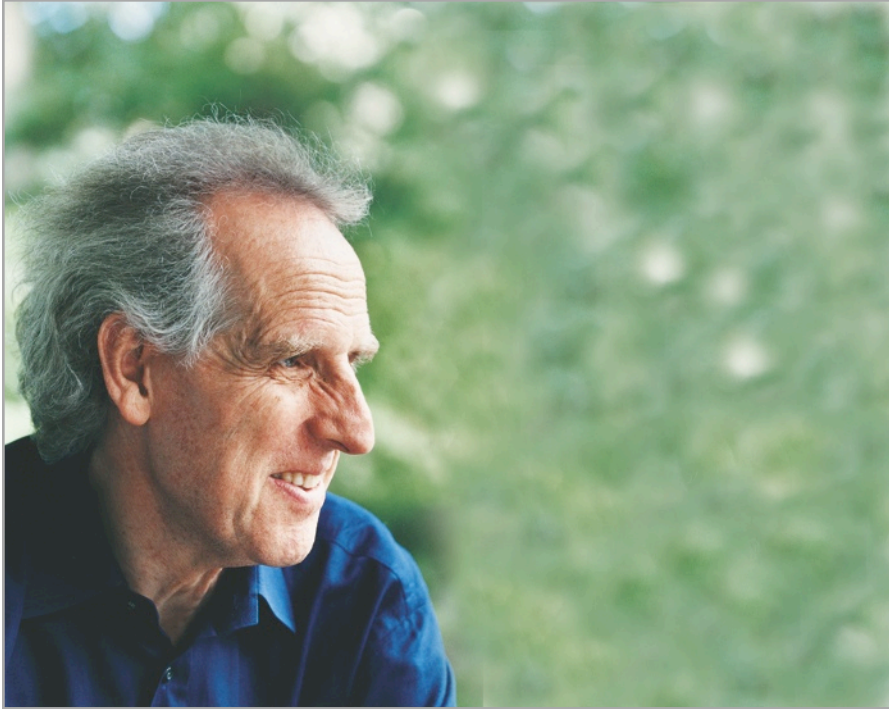


Benjamin Zander, Conductor

Benjamin Zander started his early musical training in his native England, with cello and composition lessons under the guidance of his father. When he was nine, Benjamin Britten, England's leading composer, took an interest in his development and invited the family to spend three summers in Aldeburgh, Suffolk, where he lived. This led to a long association with

Britten and lessons in theory and composition from Britten's close associate Imogen Holst, daughter of Gustav Holst.



Benjamin Zander left school when he was fifteen, moving to Florence at the invitation of the great Spanish cello virtuoso, Gaspar Cassadó, who became his teacher and mentor for the next five years. He completed his cello training at the State Academy in Cologne, traveling extensively with Cassadó and performing recitals and chamber music. In 1964 Mr. Zander completed his studies at London University, winning the University College Essay Prize and a Harkness Commonwealth Fellowship for post graduate work at Harvard University. Boston has been his home ever since.

In 1967 Mr. Zander joined the faculty at New England Conservatory, where he teaches an interpretation class, conducts the Youth Philharmonic Orchestra, and regularly conducts the conservatory orchestras. Twenty-two years ago he became the artistic director of the joint program between New England Conservatory's Preparatory School and The Walnut Hill School for the Performing Arts in Natick, Massachusetts.

During his tenure as conductor of the New England Conservatory Youth Philharmonic Orchestra he has led them in over a dozen international tours and made five commercial recordings, in addition to several documentaries for Public Broadcasting Service.

In 1979, Mr. Zander became the conductor of the Boston Philharmonic. In their thirty-two seasons together they have performed an extensive repertoire, with an emphasis on late romantic and early twentieth century composers, especially the symphonies of Gustav Mahler. In celebration of its 25th anniversary in 2003/2004, the Boston Philharmonic performed an all-Mahler season, including a concert in Carnegie Hall. In 2009, Mr. Zander conducted the orchestra and a combined choir of New England Conservatory and Tufts University singers to celebrate both the Boston Philharmonic's 30th anniversary and Mr. Zander's 70th birthday in a performance of Mahler's Second Symphony at Boston's Symphony Hall.

Benjamin Zander has established an international reputation as a guest conductor. He has a unique relationship with the Philharmonia Orchestra (London), and is currently recording a series of Beethoven and Mahler symphonies for the Telarc label. Beethoven's Fifth and Seventh Symphonies, and Mahler's First, Third, Fourth, Fifth, Sixth, and Ninth Symphonies have been released thus far. Each of these recordings includes a full-length discussion disc with Benjamin Zander explaining the music. *High Fidelity* named the recording of Mahler's Sixth as "the best classical recording of 2002." The recording of Mahler's Third was awarded the "Critics' Choice" by the *German Record Critics' Award Association* in 2004, and the recording of Mahler's Ninth Symphony was nominated for a Grammy Award. Their recent recording of Bruckner's 5th Symphony was received with

remarkable acclaim for both the performance and Mr. Zander's now famous full-length disc of musical explanation. The recording was nominated for a 2010 Grammy for Best Orchestral Performance.

Benjamin Zander has traveled the world lecturing to organizations on leadership. He has appeared several times as a keynote speaker at the World Economic Forum in Davos, where he was presented with the Crystal Award for "Outstanding Contributions in the Arts and International Relations." The best-selling book, *The Art of Possibility*, co-authored with his partner, leading psychotherapist Rosamund Zander, has been translated into sixteen languages.

In 2002, Mr. Zander was awarded the Caring Citizen of the Humanities Award by the International Council for Caring Communities at the United Nations. In 2007, he was awarded the Golden Door award by the International Institute of Boston for his "outstanding contribution to American society" as a United States citizen of foreign birth. In March of 2009, Mr. Zander was awarded an honorary doctorate from New England Conservatory of Music.

Benjamin Zander's website is www.benjaminzander.com.

Enjoy his TED talk on music and passion at: http://www.ted.com/talks/benjamin_zander_on_music_and_passion.html