

**THE
CLEVELAND
ORCHESTRA**

FRANZ WELSER-MÖST, MUSIC DIRECTOR

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The Cleveland Orchestra honors Richard K. Smucker with Distinguished Service Award and named leadership chair



Richard K. Smucker (Photo: Roger Mastroianni)

CLEVELAND— The Cleveland Orchestra is honoring Richard K. Smucker, Chairman Emeritus of The J.M. Smucker Company, for his extraordinary leadership as he concludes his tenure as Chairman of the Orchestra's Board of Trustees.

The Cleveland Orchestra will present Richard Smucker with its Distinguished Service Award during the [October 9 concert](#) at Severance Music Center. Established by the Board of Trustees in 1996, the institution's highest award celebrates individuals whose exceptional commitment and service have shaped the Orchestra's success. Smucker will be recognized during the performance conducted by Music Director Franz Welser-Möst, featuring Prokofiev's Symphony No. 7 and pianist Daniil Trifonov in Brahms's Piano Concerto No. 2.

As he steps down as Board Chair following a remarkably successful nine-year tenure, The Cleveland Orchestra is proud to recognize Richard Smucker's inspirational stewardship and generosity by creating the Richard K. Smucker President & CEO Chair, its first-ever permanently named staff position. This chair

will forever associate the position of Cleveland Orchestra President & CEO, currently held by André Gremillet, with Smucker's name and honor his remarkable service, philanthropy, and transformative impact on The Cleveland Orchestra.

"It has been a privilege to work alongside Richard. His passion for music and steadfast belief in the importance of The Cleveland Orchestra, both locally and internationally, have inspired us all. He has guided this institution with wisdom, generosity, and a deep commitment to our musicians, our audiences, and our community. Establishing this chair in his name in perpetuity is our way of thanking him for his outstanding leadership and decades of support," said André Gremillet, President & CEO of The Cleveland Orchestra.

Richard Smucker has served as a Trustee of The Cleveland Orchestra since 1989, contributing his expertise to numerous committees, including Finance, Blossom Board of Overseers, Personnel, Campaign Steering, Nominating and Governance, and Patron Experience. In 2017, he was elected the Orchestra's 13th Board Chair, succeeding Dennis W. LaBarre, and has since worked in close partnership with the Board's officers, Executive Committee, and Trustees to provide steady guidance and direction.

His leadership and philanthropy have left a lasting impact on the Orchestra's artistic excellence, financial strength, and deep connection to the community.

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