

Pinchas Zukerman

Music Director, National Arts Centre Orchestra

Pinchas Zukerman has been recognized as a musical phenomenon for nearly four decades. His genius and prodigious technique have long been a marvel to critics and audiences, and his exceptional artistic standards continue to earn him the highest acclaim. He is equally respected as a violinist, violist, conductor, pedagogue and chamber musician.

In 1998, he was appointed Music Director of the National Arts Centre Orchestra, and since his appointment has taken an interest in virtually every aspect of Ottawa's artistic community. He has made four recordings with the Orchestra, introduced a new Acoustic Control System in Southam Hall, been involved in a number of national radio and television broadcasts, and initiated the NAC Young Artists Programme and Conductors Programme as part of the summer's Great Composers Festival. He led the enormously successful Canada Tour in October 1999, and last season's Tour 2000 to the Middle East and Europe which was equally well received.

Pinchas Zukerman's discography contains over 100 titles, and has earned him 21 Grammy nominations and two awards: "Best Chamber Music Performance" in 1980 and "Best Classical Performance, Instrumental Soloist Without Orchestra" in 1981. Mr. Zukerman's earlier recordings are available on the Angel, CBS, Deutsche Grammophon, London and Philips labels. His first recording as Music Director of the National Arts Centre Orchestra was a CBC Records 1999 release of Vivaldi's *The Four Seasons* in which he is featured as conductor and violinist. Last season, CBC Records released Mr. Zukerman's first-ever recording of Beethoven Symphonies - Nos. 1 and 2 - along with the Romance No. 2 in F Major. A chamber music recording of Mozart flute quartets is being released this September, while a CD of Schubert works with the National Arts Centre Orchestra recorded this summer is due for release on CBC Records in late 2002.

Born in Tel Aviv in 1948, Pinchas Zukerman studied music with his father, first on the recorder and clarinet, and later on the violin. He soon began lessons with Ilona Feher and, in 1962, came to America with the support of Isaac Stern, Pablo Casals, and the America-Israel and Helena Rubenstein Foundations. He began his studies at the Juilliard School with Ivan Galamian, and in 1967 was named first-prize winner of the 25th Leventritt Competition. He was presented with the King Solomon Award by the America-Israel Cultural Foundation and, in 1983, President Reagan awarded him a Medal of Arts for his leadership in the musical world.