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Pinchas Zukerman Biography **Music Director, National Arts Centre Orchestra**

Pinchas Zukerman has been recognized as a musical phenomenon for 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, teacher and chamber musician.

Since his appointment as Music Director of the National Arts Centre Orchestra in 1998, Mr. Zukerman has taken an interest in virtually every aspect of Ottawa's artistic community while continuing his international career. He has made four recordings with the Orchestra and been involved in a number of national radio and television broadcasts. He introduced a new Acoustic Control System in Southam Hall, and created the Pinchas Zukerman Musical Instruments Foundation for the NAC Orchestra. He initiated the NAC Young Artists Programme in 1999 and NAC Conductors Programme in 2001 leading to the creation of the position of Apprentice Conductor held by Jean-Philippe Tremblay. In 2002 he announced a New Music Programme to further the development of talented Canadian composers.

Pinchas Zukerman's 2002-2003 schedule away from the National Arts Centre includes concerts with the Chicago Symphony led by Daniel Barenboim, and Philadelphia Orchestra led by Christoph Eschenbach, and a Mozart Festival with the Pittsburgh Symphony. Chamber music performances include a special piano trio concert in Chicago with Daniel Barenboim and Yo-Yo Ma, a concert at Lincoln Center in New York with the Orion String Quartet, and at the Tisch Center for the Arts in New York. He and pianist Marc Neikrug will perform recitals in the USA and Europe. Festival appearances include Miyazaki in Japan, Verbier in Switzerland, and Ravinia and Santa Fe in the USA.

Pinchas Zukerman's discography contains over 100 titles, and has earned him 21 Grammy nominations and two Grammy awards. Since becoming Music Director with the NAC Orchestra he has recorded with CBC Records Vivaldi's *The Four Seasons*, Beethoven Symphonies Nos. 1 and 2 (his first recording of a Beethoven symphony), a chamber music recording of Mozart flute quartets with Joanna G'froerer, Martin Beaver and Amanda Forsyth, and an all-Schubert CD released this week.

Born in Tel Aviv in 1948, Pinchas Zukerman studied music 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.

Maestro Zukerman 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. In October 2002, he will become the first recipient of the Isaac Stern Award for Artistic Excellence at the National Arts Awards Gala in New York City.