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Charles Floyd
conductor, pianist, composer

Conductor, pianist and composer Charles Floyd began studying piano at age four, gave his first solo recital at age nine, and by age twenty had been heard in solo recital, chamber music and concerto performances throughout the United States and Spain. His mentors include pianists Joseph Schwartz, the late Aube Tzerko, Howard Karp, Lee Luvisi, and Misha Dichter. He has been the recipient of numerous awards and grants, including the Aspen School of Music Fellowship, Oberlin Conservatory's Rudolf Serkin Award, and the National Chopin Competition of New York's Kosciuszko Foundation.

As a conductor, Floyd has been heard in concert with more than 500 orchestras since 1991, during which time his work at the podium caught the special attention of conductors James DePriest and Seiji Ozawa. His appearances include performances with the Detroit Symphony, the Atlanta, Indianapolis, Houston, Oregon, Saint Louis, Philadelphia, Detroit, Buffalo, San Francisco, Chicago, San Francisco, and Baltimore Symphony Orchestras. He has also appeared with the Scottish National Radio Orchestra, the Toronto Symphony, the Sydney Symphony, Orchestre Symphonique de Montréal, the Melbourne Symphony, the Auckland Symphony, the Wellington Sinfonia (New Zealand), the Honolulu Symphony, and the London Philharmonic. During the 2003-04 concert season, Floyd appeared with the Los Angeles Philharmonic in four different programs and made his debut with the Brooklyn Philharmonic at Carnegie Hall in July, 2004. During the 2006-2007, he debuted with the Edmonton Symphony (Alberta, Canada) and the Holland Symfonia (Haarlem and Amsterdam, The Netherlands). His programs include standard classical literature from the Baroque era through the 20th century, as well as alternative orchestral repertoire ranging from film scores to a diversity of world musical styles.

Floyd is an annual guest conductor of the Boston Pops Orchestra. Since 1993 his performances have included "Gospel Night at Pops" at Boston's Symphony Hall, a program which features orchestral classics as well as a 120-voice gospel chorus. His work in Boston's 1996 season included a PBS telecast of "Evening at Pops", featuring Patti LaBelle and Edwin Hawkins in a program of gospel music, and critically acclaimed performances as pianist of Gershwin's *Rhapsody in Blue* with conductor Keith Lockhart. His programs have featured a diversity of artists such as Grace Bumbry, Sting, Elton John, Brian Wilson, James Taylor, Matt Lauer, The Paratore Brothers, Yolanda Adams, Jennifer Holliday, Daryl Coley, Kirk Franklin, Doc Severinsen, Sergio Mendes, Nancy Wilson, Chris Botti, Stevie Wonder, Wynona Judd, and William Warfield. In 1998 he was music director for the nationally broadcast PBS holiday special, *A Cathedral Christmas*, with Metropolitan Opera mezzo-soprano Denyce Graves at The National Cathedral in Washington, D.C.

Floyd's eleven-year partnership with singer Natalie Cole included such projects as the multiple Grammy Award-winning tribute to Nat King Cole entitled *Unforgettable, With Love*, the Emmy Award-winning PBS Great Performances concert video of the same title, as well as the Grammy-winning releases *Take a Look* and *Stardust*.

His compositions range from chamber music to large orchestral and vocal works. A tribute to the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, *One Man's Dream* for narrator and orchestra was commissioned and premiered by the Charlotte Symphony Orchestra in 2001. His *Four Spirituals* for soprano and orchestra was premiered at Boston's Symphony Hall with the Boston Pops Esplanade Orchestra in 1995, and his oratorio *Hosanna* for gospel chorus and orchestra premiered there in 2000. In July, 2005 he joined the small team of conductors performing Howard Shore's *The Lord Of The Rings Symphony* at the request of the Oscar-winning film composer.