

**HARRY JOHN BROWN (1961 - 1968)**

Brown became the orchestra's first music director in 1961 and worked tirelessly to establish the MSO's reputation in the Milwaukee community. Brown was instrumental in hiring the orchestra's first full-time musicians and oversaw the progressive expansion of the number of performances, which began to include concerts for children and teens, educational programming, and collaborations with the Florentine Opera Company and Bel Canto Chorus.

**KENNETH SCHERMERHORN (1968 - 1980)**

During his tenure, Kenneth Schermerhorn collaborated with Chorus Director Margaret Hawkins on the formation of the Milwaukee Symphony Chorus, built an outstanding reputation for the fledgling orchestra, and took the MSO to the Kennedy Center, Chicago's Orchestra Hall, and Carnegie Hall for the first time. Schermerhorn led the MSO on its first international tour to the Dominican Republic, in the production of its very first studio recordings and radio broadcasts, and the launch of its statewide touring program.

**LUKAS FOSS (1981 - 1986)**

The noted composer, conductor, and pianist expanded the MSO's repertoire to include a greater emphasis on contemporary and American music, as well as lesser-known works by familiar composers. The Foss era included festivals celebrating the music of Bernstein and Copland (both attended by the composers), the recording of two albums, and a European tour. In celebration of the MSO's 30th anniversary, Foss composed *With Music Strong*, which he dedicated to Margaret Hawkins and the Milwaukee Symphony Chorus.

**ZDENĚK MÁCAL (1987 - 1995)**

Mácal took the orchestra on a critically acclaimed East Coast tour in 1989, which included performances at the Kennedy Center in Washington, D.C., and Carnegie Hall in New York. In 1992, Mácal garnered international attention when he led the MSO on a major tour to Japan. He built upon the MSO's recording legacy, resulting in the release of more than a dozen albums, including a cycle of Dvořák's complete symphonies, on the Koss Classics label. During his tenure, the MSO's concerts were broadcast on more than 240 radio stations.



ANDREAS DELFS (1997 - 2009)

Delfs's tenure brought renewed commitment to community outreach and an expansion of the MSO's artistic foundations. In 1999, he led the orchestra to Cuba as the first major U.S. orchestra to visit in nearly 40 years. The MSO also became known as a purveyor of new music, giving annual performances of world premieres and commissioned works. Delfs's leadership led to multiple recordings and technological advancements. In 2005, the MSO became the first American orchestra to distribute its own live recordings online, most notably through iTunes.



EDO DE WAART (2009 - 2017)

The de Waart era included sold-out concerts, critical acclaim, and a celebrated performance at Carnegie Hall in 2012 as part of the Spring for Music festival. Committed to making opera available to a wider audience, highlights from de Waart's tenure include sold-out performances of Bartók's *Bluebeard's Castle*, replete with set designs by world-famous glass artist Dale Chihuly, the complete cycle of the Mozart-da Ponte operas, presented from 2014 - 2016 to rave reviews from critics and audiences alike, and Wagner's *The Flying Dutchman*. In May 2016, the MSO released recordings of all four of Brahms's symphonies conducted by de Waart.



KEN-DAVID MASUR (2018 - 2026)

Masur's time in Milwaukee was defined by the restoration of the Warner Grand Theater and its transformation into the Bradley Symphony Center, giving the MSO a permanent home in downtown Milwaukee. Masur's innovative thematic programming included a festival devoted to the music of the 1930s, a three-week Water Festival, which highlighted community partners whose work centers on water conservation, and a city-wide Bach Festival, celebrating the enduring appeal of J.S. Bach. He also instituted a multi-season artist-in-residence program and led highly acclaimed performances with the Milwaukee Symphony Chorus, conducting major choral works by Bach and Beethoven during the 50th anniversary season of the Milwaukee Symphony Chorus.