

AMFS FACT SHEET



Where Dreams Begin

The Campaign for the
Aspen Music Festival and School

Founded	By Chicagoans Elizabeth and Walter Paepcke in 1949, as part of the Goethe Bicentennial and Convocation that they organized with participants such as Thornton Wilder, Albert Schweitzer, Jose Ortega y Gasset, Herbert Bayer, and Dmitri Mitropolous and the Minneapolis Symphony Orchestra
Music Directors	Robert Spano, 2011–present David Zinman, 1998–2010 Lawrence Foster, 1990–1996 Jorge Mester, 1970–1990
Board of Trustees	50 members Chair, Robert J. Hurst
National Council	More than 200 members President, Carrie Wells
Facilities	Benedict Music Tent, 2050 seats, opened June 2000 Harris Concert Hall, 500 seats, opened fall 1993 AMFS Castle Creek Campus, 38-acre site with nine buildings
Summer Events	More than 300 in eight weeks; up to eight events a day; at least 25 percent are free. Presents performances by four full orchestras: Aspen Festival Orchestra, Aspen Chamber Symphony, Aspen Philharmonic Orchestra, and American Academy of Conducting Orchestra. Also presents Aspen Opera Theater Center, chamber music, master classes, lectures, panels, children's events, and more.
Winter Events	Artist recitals in Harris Concert Hall with star musicians; three to five free family concerts
Annual Budget	\$15 million
Year-Round Staff	35
Student Body	625 representing all orchestral instruments, piano, composition, conducting, guitar, voice, opera, and Advanced Quartet Studies From 40 states and 40 countries Average age 22.3 years Students begin applying as early as November
Artist-Faculty	Approximately 150 from major conservatories, music schools, and orchestras all over the world
Alumni	VIOLINISTS: Joshua Bell, Sarah Chang, Cho-Liang Lin, Robert McDuffie, Midori, Nadja Salerno Sonnenberg, Gil Shaham PIANISTS: Ingrid Fliter, Orli Shaham, Joyce Yang CONDUCTORS: James Conlon, James Levine, Leonard Slatkin, Marin Alsop VOCALISTS: Renée Fleming, Dawn Upshaw COMPOSERS: Philip Glass, William Bolcom, Bright Sheng, Joan Tower CELLISTS: Lynn Harrell, Alisa Weilerstein OTHER: Performer Peter Schickele, bassist Edgar Meyer