



Government House  
CANBERRA ACT 2600

16 August 2022

**Honorary Appointment - General Division - August 2022 (2)**

The Governor-General is pleased to announce the following appointment:

**HONORARY COMPANION (AC) IN THE  
GENERAL DIVISION**

**Maestro Zubin MEHTA**, United States of America  
For eminent service to the Australia-India bilateral  
relationship and humanity-at-large, particularly in  
the fields of classical music and philanthropy.

By His Excellency's command

**Paul Singer MVO**

Official Secretary to the Governor-General

**APPOINTED AN HONORARY COMPANION (AC)**  
**IN THE GENERAL DIVISION OF THE ORDER OF AUSTRALIA**

**Maestro Zubin MEHTA**, United States of America

For eminent service to the Australia-India bilateral relationship and humanity-at-large, particularly in the fields of classical music and philanthropy.

With a career that has spanned more than five decades, Maestro Zubin Mehta is one of the world's most celebrated and respected conductors. His career highlights, including Artistic Director of a number of the world's most famous and eminent orchestras, are only matched by his tireless philanthropic work, particularly in the field of educating children in western classical music.

Since 1966, Maestro Mehta undertook at least three cross country tours through Australia as Music Director of the Israel Philharmonic Orchestra, a position he held for 50 years.

Maestro Mehta's deep connection with Australia came into special focus in 2013, when he served as the first international guest conductor of the Australian World Orchestra (AWO). By gathering Australian orchestral professionals who have won key appointments in leading orchestras worldwide, the AWO is a unique organisation and an extraordinary expression of Australian musical talent and energy.

Maestro Mehta has given the AWO heightened international profile in his Australian concerts in Melbourne and Sydney in 2013 and a subsequent three-city tour in India in 2015. He will add to this contribution in August 2022, leading the AWO in international performances in Edinburgh and London as well as Melbourne and Sydney.

Maestro Mehta's contributions to furthering intercultural understanding has been remarkable, including orchestral concerts to create unification, often following conflict or tragedy. In 2013, these contributions were also recognised with an honorary doctorate from the University of Melbourne.

His international career brings enormous musical inspiration to audiences and musicians worldwide. His contributions to intercultural understanding and education, and his service to the profile and development of the AWO has cultivated a unique cultural ambassadorship between Australia and India. Maestro Zubin Mehta is thoroughly worthy of formal national recognition as an Honorary Companion in the General Division of the Order of Australia (AC).