

## JERI LYNNE JOHNSON

Jeri Lynne Johnson is a graduate of Wellesley College and the University of Chicago. In 1998 she won the Jorge Mester Conducting Scholarship to attend the Aspen Music Festival and her conducting mentors have included Sir Simon Rattle, Marin Alsop and Daniel Barenboim. Her broad and eclectic musical tastes have allowed her to perform world-premieres of MacArthur Genius Grant winning classical composers as well as a ground-breaking collaboration at Carnegie Hall with rapper Jay Z, singer/songwriter Alicia Keys, and hip hop band The Roots. Ms. Johnson was heralded as one of today's leading young women conductors on the NBC Today Show and she has been featured in numerous magazines and newspapers as well as television and radio shows around the world including 20/20 and the "Tavis Smiley Show" on NPR. In 2005 Ms. Johnson made history as the first African-American woman to win an international conducting prize when she was awarded the Taki Alsop Conducting Fellowship. Since then, Ms. Johnson has broken barriers in Europe and the US as the first African-American woman on the podium for many orchestras and has conducted the Philadelphia Orchestra, Dallas Symphony, the Bournemouth Symphony (UK), the Weimar Staatskapelle (Germany) among others. In 2021-2022 her engagements include the National Symphony Orchestra, Hartford Symphony Orchestra, Santa Fe Opera, Oregon Bach Festival, River Oaks Chamber Orchestra, Chicago Opera Theater, New Orleans Opera, among others. In 2008 she established her own orchestra in Philadelphia, Black Pearl Chamber Orchestra, with some of the top musicians in the country from diverse cultures and ethnicities as a model for the 21st-century orchestra. Through Black Pearl, she pioneered a fresh new approach to community engagement that has been imitated and adopted by orchestras across the country. The world-class quality of her concert performances have earned Black Pearl numerous grants from the National Endowment for the Arts. And her innovative community engagement programs have made Black Pearl the only organization in the nation ever to win three prestigious Knight Foundation Arts Challenge grants. In January 2021, Black Pearl Chamber Orchestra had the honor of being the only orchestra in North America invited to participate in a virtual collaborative concert as part of the World Economic Forum at Davos. This inspiring event called See Me! A Global Concert involved filmmakers, visual artists, choirs, orchestras and musicians from around the world.

In 2016, Jeri put her 20 years of experience and insights as an African-American arts professional to work for others and founded DEI Arts Consulting, to provide organizations with creative and strategic advisory services grounded in the values of diversity, equity and inclusion. She is also civically engaged and has served on the Board of Directors of a number of organizations including the Greater Philadelphia Cultural Alliance, Einstein Health Network, and the Philadelphia Chapter of the National Academy of

Recording Arts and Science (the “Grammys”). Currently she serves on the Boards of the Philadelphia Award, National Instrumentalist Mentoring and Advancement Network, and Philanthropi Charitable Foundation. Most recently, she was named the 2020-2021 Woman One honoree for Drexel University’s Institute for Women’s Health and Leadership. In her spare time, she enjoys playing golf, practicing Tai Chi, and spending time with her daughter, Evelyn.