

In Memoriam

Erich Leinsdorf, eminent conductor and music director of the Boston Symphony Orchestra from 1962 to 1969, died of cancer at a hospital in Zurich on September 11, 1993, at the age of 81. Leinsdorf, who was well known for his belief in discipline, detail and painstaking rehearsal, provided a standard of thoroughness and professionalism respected by conductors as well as audiences throughout the world.

An honorary member of the AES, Leinsdorf was born in Vienna on February 4, 1912. He moved to the U.S. in 1937, where one year later at the age of 25, he made his conducting debut at the Metropolitan Opera. During his affiliation with the Met, which would last on and off for many years, he served as director of the Met's German repertory and recorded a series of operatic performances for RCA including, *The Barber of Seville*, *Tosca* and *Turandot*, with Birgit Nilsson, Renata Tebaldi and Jussi Bjoerling.

In 1956, Leinsdorf became music director of the New York City Opera, where he served a brief tenure before moving on to conduct the Cleveland Orchestra and, later, the Rochester Philharmonic. However, Leinsdorf's most notable music directorship was with the Boston Symphony Orchestra, where he replaced Charles Münch in 1962. During his seven-years with the Boston Symphony, he contributed his superior technical prowess as well as an adventurous musical repertory. During the Symphony's summer season at the Tanglewood Music Festival in the Berkshires, Leinsdorf introduced 32 new works by such composers as Benjamin Britten and Prokofiev.

In addition to his many recordings on the RCA label, Leinsdorf wrote one of the seminal books on conducting entitled *The Composer's Advocate*.