



Violinist and violist Barry Shiffman has enjoyed a rich and varied career as a performer, recording artist, teacher, and administrator; and he has now embarked on his first season as Artistic Director of the Rockport Chamber Music Festival. In 1989, he co-founded the St. Lawrence String Quartet (SLSQ), and during his 17 years with the quartet, he appeared in more than 2,000 concerts in venues around the globe and recorded several critically acclaimed discs under an exclusive contract with EMI Classics. In addition to performing and recording, Shiffman is a sought-after violin and viola teacher and chamber music coach. As part of his role in the St. Lawrence, Shiffman served as artist-in-residence at Stanford University from 1998 to 2006 and as visiting artist at the University of Toronto from 1995 to 2006. Passionately committed to the composers of our time, he has been involved in the premieres of hundreds of new works, both in the St. Lawrence Quartet and beyond.

From 2006 to 2010, he served as Director of Music Programs at The Banff Centre and from 2010 to 2016 was the Artistic Director of the Centre's Summer Music Programs and Executive Director of the Banff International String Quartet Competition. During his tenure at The Banff Centre, he introduced new programming in classical music performance, composition, popular music and jazz, and oversaw the dramatic growth of The Banff International String Quartet Competition, which he continues to direct. Since 2010, he has been at The Royal Conservatory of Music in Toronto, as both Associate Dean and Director of Chamber Music at the Glenn Gould School and Director of the Phil and Eli Taylor Performance Academy for Young Artists. A sought-after juror, he has served on the jury of the Tchaikovsky and Montreal violin competitions, as well as London's Wigmore Hall, Geneva, Banff, and Lyon string quartet competitions. In addition to his work at The Banff Centre and The Royal Conservatory, Shiffman served as Executive Artistic Director of Vancouver's Music in the Morning Concerts 2009-2016.

He is the recipient of the Nadia Boulanger Prize for Excellence in the Art of Teaching awarded by the Longy School, and received an honorary doctorate from the University of Calgary. Mr. Shiffman's formal studies were at the Royal Conservatory in Toronto, University of Toronto, Utrecht Conservatory, Hartt School of Music, Juilliard School and Yale University.