



Richard Lesser received his early music training in Los Angeles, then continued his studies at Curtis Music Institute, graduating in 1959. After two years of touring with Ballet Russe De Monte Carlo and National Ballet of Canada Orchestras, Mr. Lesser freelanced in Los Angeles, recording in the film studios, playing in the Monday Evening Concert series, and Ojai Festival and recording as first clarinetist in Columbia Symphony with Igor Stravinsky. He was invited to the Marlboro Festival (Vermont), where he participated in four summers of chamber music. In 1966 he was invited by Zubin Mehta to join the Israel Philharmonic Orchestra, and in 1968 he was appointed principal first clarinetist of that organization, where for the next 35 years he performed under the batons of: Mehta, Bernstein, Munch, Ormandy, Tennstedt, Solti, Barenboim, Abbado, Masur, Mazel, Muti,...Mr. Lesser retired from the Israel Philharmonic Orchestra in 2002...He has taught in the USA, Australia, Far East, Germany, and since 1968 has been the head of the Clarinet Department of Tel Aviv University.