



Cincinnati
CHAMBER
ORCHESTRA

Contact: Ann Stewart

Communications Manager | Cincinnati Chamber Orchestra

For Release:

513.871.7465 Office | 513.910.3488 Cell

January 24, 2016

StewartABS@aol.com | www.cocincinnati.org

Cincinnati Chamber Orchestra Adds Christopher Zimmerman to Music Director Candidates

Cincinnati, OH – The Board of Trustees of the CCO is pleased to announce that Christopher Zimmerman is one of the five conductors who will be a candidate to be the fifth music director of the Cincinnati Chamber Orchestra.

Due to the demands of his existing and upcoming commitments, conductor Donato Cabrera has withdrawn from the CCO music director search. He sends his best wishes to the orchestra for their continued success.

“We are delighted to welcome Christopher Zimmerman as a music director finalist,” said Wes Needham, who serves as Chairman of the music director search committee and Cincinnati Chamber Orchestra board president. “Mr. Zimmerman had expressed a desire to remain under consideration, should an opening arise. So, when a spot became available, Chris was our first choice. He makes a talented addition to our field and we are excited to welcome him to the stage for Summermusik 2016.”

Christopher Zimmerman graduated from Yale with a B.A. in Music, and received his Master’s from the University of Michigan. He studied with Seiji Ozawa and Gunther Schuller at Tanglewood, and at the Pierre Monteux School in Maine with Charles Bruck. Zimmerman served as an apprentice to Andrew Davis and the Toronto Symphony, and in Prague, as assistant conductor to Vaclav Neumann and the Czech Philharmonic Orchestra.

Zimmerman's debut with the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra was followed by engagements with the London Symphony Orchestra and the Royal Liverpool Philharmonic. He has since conducted orchestras all over the world, including the Prague Symphony, the Slovak Philharmonic, the Turku Philharmonic, the Seoul Philharmonic, the Mexico City Philharmonic, the Caracas Philharmonic, National Orchestra of Rio de Janeiro, the Shenzhen Symphony, and the Xiamen Symphony. Prior to his appointment to the Fairfax Symphony Orchestra, Christopher Zimmerman was Music Director of the Symphony of Southeast Texas, the Bangor Symphony Orchestra and the City of London Chamber Orchestra. His career has also embraced teaching and working with student orchestras and conductors; in 1993 he joined the conducting faculty at the College-Conservatory of Music in Cincinnati where he was Music Director of their concert orchestra, and in 1999 he was appointed as Fuller Professor of Orchestral Studies at the Hartt School as well as Music Director of the Hartt Symphony.

Zimmerman is currently in his 7th season as Music Director of the Fairfax Symphony Orchestra. The orchestra was honored as 2013 winner of the Best Classical Orchestra Ensemble by Washington Area Musical Awards.

"Watch out for Christopher Zimmerman," wrote Stephen Brookes of The Washington Post in 2013. "The music director of the Fairfax Symphony Orchestra has been injecting adrenaline into this small but determined ensemble since he took over in 2009. And the resulting performance – to judge by Saturday's imaginative, high-octane concert at George Mason University's Center for the Arts – have made Fairfax players a serious force to be reckoned with."

Zimmerman was recognized as the winner of the American Conducting Prize in 2011, an award given for nationwide performances by orchestral conductors, choral conductors, and a host of other categories. Such recognition of his abilities has more recently been born out in his recent appointments as Music Director of the Fargo-Moorhead Symphony (2013) and Artistic Director of the American Youth Philharmonic Orchestras (2014), posts he now holds alongside the Fairfax Symphony Orchestra Music Directorship.

"It is a delight to have the chance to collaborate with the Cincinnati Chamber Orchestra," said Mr. Zimmerman. "This organization shows an unremitting determination to banish the routine and unimaginative, and present its concerts and musical events as a stimulating, intimate, even

emotional experience. The CCO's distinguished and distinctive musicians, some of whom I have had the pleasure of working with in the past whilst on the faculty at CCM, set the highest standards for any conductor. The CCO's future is bright, and I look forward to returning to Cincinnati to be a part of it in this vital search."

SummERMusik 2016 will give Greater Cincinnati music lovers the opportunity to meet and critique the final four music director candidates. Candidate Kelly Kuo's audition concert took place during SummERMusik 2015, and received outstanding reviews. The concert dates for the other finalist candidates are: Daniel Meyer on August 13, 2016; Christopher Zimmerman on August 20, 2016; Sarah Ioannides on August 27, 2016; and Eckart Preu on September 1, 2016.

SummERMusik 2016 will run from August 13th through September 1st, and will include four full chamber orchestra concerts at SCPA, three smaller chamber ensemble concerts that will take place on Sunday afternoons, and four of the very popular Chamber Crawl concerts. The complete schedule of SummERMusik concerts, locations, and guest artists will be released in March.

For bios and photos of all five CCO music director candidates:

https://www.dropbox.com/sh/uy6n95zj1svw8zo/AACHqTrLXhrN8XPPysPdxp_8a?dl=0

About the Cincinnati Chamber Orchestra: The Cincinnati Chamber Orchestra is an independent ensemble of 32 professional musicians that celebrated its 40th anniversary season in 2014 and launched the critically acclaimed summer music festival SummERMusik in August, 2015. The CCO offers a vibrant and fresh musical experience in an intimate and informal setting, for both the seasoned and novice concert patron. The CCO's size allows for flexibility and creativity in programming, the ideal ensemble for presenting orchestral works ranging from the Baroque and Classical eras to commissioned works by contemporary composers. Collaborations have become a hallmark of the CCO, including ongoing partnerships with VAE: Cincinnati's Vocal Arts Ensemble and Madcap Puppets.

For additional information about the CCO, visit www.ccocincinnati.org.

#