



*Cincinnati*  
**CHAMBER**  
ORCHESTRA

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## **Cincinnati Chamber Orchestra Selects Eckart Preu as New Music Director**

Cincinnati, OH – The Board of Trustees of the Cincinnati Chamber Orchestra is pleased to announce that Eckart Preu is the new music director of the Cincinnati Chamber Orchestra. The CCO was founded by its first music director, Paul Nadler, in 1974. He was followed by Gerhard Samuel in 1984, Keith Lockhart in 1992, and Mischa Santora, who was music director from 2000-2014. Mr. Preu is looking forward to programming Summermusik 2017 and has already begun working with the staff and Board to expand the CCO's musical horizons.

"The CCO is delighted to welcome Eckart Preu as our fifth music director," said Wes Needham, who serves as Chairman of the music director search committee and Cincinnati Chamber Orchestra board president. "His selection marks the end of a nearly two-year process to identify the next artistic leader of our orchestra. Eckart impressed the search committee and Board with his obvious talent, his passion for music making, and his eagerness to become a member of the music scene in Cincinnati. His resume is certainly impressive, but you'll see that his most compelling qualifications are his magnetic personality and his ability to make classical music relatable. We were humbled by the caliber of conductors we worked with this during this process, and we look forward to introducing Cincinnati to Eckart, and welcoming him back to our stage for Summermusik 2017."

Eckart Preu is Music Director of the Spokane Symphony (WA) and the Stamford Symphony (CT). In September, he added the title of music director designate of the Long Beach Symphony.

Previously, he held the positions of Associate Conductor of the Richmond Symphony (2001-2004), Resident Conductor of the American Symphony Orchestra (1997-2004) and of the American Russian Young Artists Orchestra (1999-2004). Other former posts include Music Director of the Norwalk (CT) Youth Symphony and Principal Conductor of the New Amsterdam Symphony (NY). He was associated with the Bard Music Festival from 1997 to 2004 as both

Assistant and Guest Conductor.

In Europe, Mr. Preu served as Music Director of the Orchestre International de Paris (1993-1995).

As a guest conductor, he has appeared with the Jerusalem Symphony (Israel), Symphony Orchestra of Chile, Auckland Philharmonia (New Zealand), Radio Philharmonic of Slovenia, Pecs Philharmonic (Hungary), Varna Philharmonic (Bulgaria), and in Germany with the Jenaer Philharmoniker.

Recent and upcoming guest conducting engagements include concerts with the Memphis Symphony Orchestra, the Delaware Symphony, the Duluth Superior Symphony, the Fairfax Symphony Orchestra, the Wichita Symphony, and the Portland Symphony (Maine). Recent international appearances include performances with the Orquesta Sinfonica de Chile, the Auckland Philharmonia in New Zealand, and the Philharmonie Baden-Baden in Germany.

Career highlights include performances at Carnegie Hall, the Sorbonne in Paris, a live broadcast with the Jerusalem Symphony, and his first commercial recording of the world premiere of "Letters from Lincoln" - a work commissioned by the Spokane Symphony from Michael Daugherty featuring baritone soloist Thomas Hampson. 2012 also saw a live CD recording featuring Paganini's Violin concerto no. 2 with Sergey Malov and the New Zealand Philharmonia.

He has collaborated with internationally renowned soloists including Sarah Chang, Anne Akiko Meyers, Jean-Phillipe Collard, Vladimir Feltsman, Horacio Gutierrez, Leila Josefowicz, Louis Lortie, and Richard Stoltzman.

Promoting and furthering the performance of American music, Mr. Preu conducted the world and New York premieres of William Thomas McKinley's Clarinet Concerto no. 4 with soloist Richard Stoltzman, "Prayer for Peace" by Roger Davidson, the Connecticut premiere of "Made in America" by Joan Tower, and the world premiere of "Lewis and Clark" by Leigh Baxter with the Richmond Symphony. He also conducted the premiere of Michael Daugherty's "Letters from Lincoln" with baritone Thomas Hampson.

As opera conductor he has lead fully staged productions of Rigoletto, The Magic Flute, Don Giovanni, La Finta Giardiniera, and Les Enfants Terribles among others.

A native of Germany, Mr. Preu came to the United States as winner of the National Conducting Competition of the German Academic Exchange Service (1996) for graduate studies with Harold Farberman at the Hartt School of Music where he also received the Karl Boehm Scholarship. In Germany he earned a masters degree in conducting from the Hochschule für Musik in Weimar studying under Gunter Kahlert and Nicolas Pasquet. He also studied under Jean-Sebastien Beraud at the Conservatoire National Supérieur de Musique de Paris in France. Mr. Preu's education was made possible by scholarships from the Herbert von Karajan Foundation, the Konrad Adenauer Foundation and the French Ministry of Culture. In November 1998, Mr. Preu took 3rd place at the International Competition for Young Conductors of the European Union in Spoleto, Italy.

Eckart Preu's early musical training was in piano and voice. At the age of 10, he became a member of the Boys Choir Dresdner Kreuzchor and went on to work with them as soloist, rehearsal pianist, and Assistant Conductor. He subsequently served as a vocal coach with the Altenburg Opera and the Erfurt Opera House in Germany. Mr. Preu was a Visiting Assistant Professor at Bard College, NY (1999-2000) and in summers 2000 and 2001 he served on the guest faculty of the C.W. Post Chamber Music Festival.

"I am thrilled to be the new music director for the brilliant Cincinnati Chamber Orchestra," said Mr. Preu. "From the very first moment I stepped in front of the musicians of the CCO I was excited about what I heard - and felt. Their extraordinary skills, passion, and commitment were palpable immediately. I am intrigued by this organization. Besides the incredible quality of the musicians, the dedicated Board and staff, it is an orchestra interested in searching to redefine what it means to be a classical chamber orchestra in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. It is an orchestra that thinks outside the box, reaches out to other artistic and non-artistic organizations across the community, finding new partners and collaborators and thus constantly revitalizing and renewing the concert experience. It is an orchestra dedicated to engaging, enchanting, and captivating new and experienced audiences. Providing unique musical experiences? Making classical music fun? This is right up my alley. I am looking forward to help shape the exciting future of this wonderful organization!"

**For more information about Eckart Preu – [www.orchestraconductor.org](http://www.orchestraconductor.org)**

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**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.cocincinnati.org](http://www.cocincinnati.org).**

The Cincinnati Chamber Orchestra is supported by the generosity of over 40,000 businesses and individuals who give annually to the ArtsWave Community Campaign, and the Ohio Arts Council, and by season sponsor Robert and Debra Chavez.