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**CINCINNATI
CHAMBER
ORCHESTRA**

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Cincinnati Chamber Orchestra Music Director Eckart Preu Signs 4-Year Contract Extension

CINCINNATI, OH — The Board of Trustees of the Cincinnati Chamber Orchestra (CCO) is pleased to announce that Music Director Eckart Preu has signed a 4-year contract extension through the 2026 season. Eckart is the fifth Music Director of the CCO, a position he has held since October 2016. During his tenure, the orchestra has seen unprecedented growth of its Summermusik festival and has partnered with local organizations such as MadCap Puppets, CET, Cincinnati Art Museum, MamLuft&Co. Dance, and Vocal Arts Ensemble, to name a few. The Orchestra also has presented world premieres of seven compositions.

“Eckart understands that August’s Summermusik festival offers our guests a musical journey with chamber music that goes beyond the musicians presenting it professionally, but also can bring new perspective and education to a piece, composer, and the story behind it,” says CCO Board President Daniel Pfahl. “Eckart excels in these areas with his personal investment in rewarding the audience’s curiosity. The Board of Trustees cannot be happier to continue our partnership with Eckart as we head toward and beyond season number 50 in 2024.”

Eckart and the CCO were recently awarded the prestigious 2022 American Prize for Orchestral Programming, an award that recognizes and rewards the best achievement in the unique field of orchestral programming, where the selection of repertoire by knowledgeable, creative, and courageous music directors builds orchestras and audiences, educates young people and adults, and enriches the community.

“I am thrilled for the opportunity to extend my tenure with the CCO,” says Preu. “Artistically, working for the CCO has been an incredibly satisfying experience. Summermusik and the CCO have been an opportunity to dream about shaping an orchestra of the 21st century - to rethink programming and the presentation of concerts. With its unique identity of partnerships and collaborations it is a wonderful artistic laboratory with an amazing audience. I am honored and excited to continue working with the fantastic musicians, staff, and board to create many memorable musical experiences.”

A native of Germany, Eckart came to the United States as a winner of the National Conducting Competition of German Academic Exchange Service (1996) for graduate studies with Harold Farberman at the Hartt School of Music. At Hartt, he received the Karl Bohm Scholarship. He earned a master’s degree in conducting from the Hochschule für Musik in Weimar, studying under Gunter Kahlert and Nicolas Pasquet. Eckart’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.

Eckart’s career highlights include performances at Carnegie Hall, the Sorbonne in Paris, and a live broadcast with the Jerusalem Symphony. His first commercial recording was of the world premiere of “Letters from Lincoln,” a work commissioned by the Spokane Symphony from Michael Daugherty

featuring baritone soloist Thomas Hampson. His recent and upcoming events include concerts with American symphonies such as the Memphis Symphony Orchestra and the Portland Symphony, as well as international appearances with Orquesta Sinfonica de Chile and the Philharmonie Baden-Baden in Germany.

Eckart is currently the music director of the Long Beach Symphony (CA) and the Portland Symphony (ME).

For more information about Eckart Preu, visit www.orchestraconductor.org

PHOTO

A photograph of Eckart Preu is included.

About the Cincinnati Chamber Orchestra: The Cincinnati Chamber Orchestra is an independent ensemble of 32 professional musicians that launched the critically acclaimed summer music festival Summermusik in August, 2015. The CCO offers a fun and informative musical experience in an intimate and informal setting. The CCO's size allows for creativity in programming; presenting orchestral works ranging from Baroque and Classical eras to commissioned works by contemporary composers. Collaborations are a hallmark of the CCO, including partnerships with VAE: Cincinnati's Vocal Arts Ensemble and the Cincinnati Art Museum. Summermusik concerts are presented in venues all around Greater Cincinnati, and the festival has experienced unprecedented growth under Music Director Eckart Preu.

The Cincinnati Chamber Orchestra is supported by the ArtsWave Community Campaign, the Ohio Arts Council, The Charles H. Dater Foundation, the National Endowment for the Arts, the Louise Dieterle Nippert Musical Arts Fund, and Robert and Debra Chavez. Additional support comes from American Rescue Plan funds from the City of Cincinnati through ArtsWave.

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