



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

May 22, 2017 6:00 pm

At a special meeting of board, staff and musicians, President of the Board of Directors of the Winnipeg Symphony Orchestra, Terry Sargeant, announced that - today, May 22, 2017 - the Oklahoma City Philharmonic has named Alexander Mickelthwate as their new Music Director, effective for the 2018-19 season. The Oklahoma City Philharmonic is recognized as one of the premier regional orchestras in the United States.

This appointment marks a very significant step in an ongoing process of artistic development for Maestro Mickelthwate and the Winnipeg Symphony Orchestra.

Alexander Mickelthwate has been the Music Director of the WSO since 2006. At the end of the 2017-18 season, he will have been our Music Director for 12 seasons, which makes Alexander and Bramwell Tovey the two longest serving Music Directors in WSO history.

"I am grateful for my years with the WSO and my years in Winnipeg," says Music Director, Alexander Mickelthwate. "I will continue to think of myself as part of the WSO family for years to come. Yes, we have raised two hockey playing Canadian boys."

In his years with the WSO, Maestro Mickelthwate has provided excellent leadership to our orchestra. He has led the development and growth of our renowned New Music Festival. He has been actively engaged in connecting the orchestra with the community in many new and enhanced ways. He was instrumental in the creation and growth of the Sistema Winnipeg program, a social change program for children built on intensive music training. And, in 2014, he was at the helm of the WSO's triumphant performance at Carnegie Hall in New York City.

"In his years with the WSO, he has become a much-admired leader in the broader arts scene in Winnipeg and has made many friends throughout our community," said President Terry Sargeant. "We look forward to next season, the WSO's 70th anniversary season and Alexander's last as Music Director. Throughout the season, we will celebrate Alexander's years with the WSO, while highlighting many of his contributions to our orchestra and community."

The WSO thanks Alexander for his service and contribution to the life of the orchestra, and we wish Alexander and his family the very best success in this new endeavour.

The WSO maintains an ongoing continuity process to ensure seamless succession planning.

About WSO:

The WSO is integral to Winnipeg's rich cultural life, delighting more than 225,000 audience members each year with innovative programming and musical excellence. The WSO presents educational programs for more than 40,000 students annually and tours to communities across Manitoba.

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MEDIA:

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