

**CHARLESTON
SYMPHONY
ORCHESTRA**



David Stahl,
Music Director

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**CHARLESTON SYMPHONY'S STAHL TO BEGIN TRANSITION FROM MUSIC
DIRECTOR TO LAUREATE CONDUCTOR;
SEARCH TO COMMENCE FOR NEW MUSIC DIRECTOR**

CHARLESTON, SC (October 13, 2009) – David Stahl, the popular and long time Music Director of the Charleston Symphony Orchestra, will begin transitioning to his new status as Laureate Conductor today. This will lead to a search for a new Music Director for the Charleston Symphony.

“For 25 years, Maestro David Stahl has served as the driving force for symphonic music in Charleston and has provided countless magical moments for audiences of every age in leading the Charleston Symphony Orchestra. We all have been firsthand witnesses to his enormous talent and his infectious enthusiasm,” said Symphony Board President, Ted Legasey, in an the announcement today at the City Gallery at Waterfront Park.

“We are here today to announce that Maestro Stahl will transition out of the day-to-day artistic management of the Symphony over the course of the next three seasons. During this transition, he will continue as Music Director and we will continue to enjoy his performances. And, at the conclusion of this three-year period, he will be named Laureate Conductor,” continued Legasey.

“It has been an amazing 25 years for me – a true privilege and real honor to serve as the leader of this wonderful orchestra. It is time now for us all to think about the future, and the next generation of leadership,” said David Stahl, “Therefore, after much thought on my part, I have requested the Board to afford me the opportunity to transition out of the role of Music Director. Working together, we have developed a transition plan that meets my needs and will serve our orchestra and our community well.”

“I am most appreciative that the Board has invited me to serve as Laureate Conductor when the transition is complete. In addition to fulfilling a deeply held desire to stay in my adopted hometown of Charleston, this schedule affords the Board adequate time to find a successor worthy of this orchestra,” continues Maestro Stahl, “I am so proud of our musicians and what we have accomplished. What we have built. I’m grateful for their support over the years.” Stahl will continue serving as Music Director of the Bavarian Staatstheater am Gaertnerplatz in Munich, Germany, as well as world wide guest engagements.

Stahl was named Music Director and Conductor of the Symphony in (May) 1984. Since coming to Charleston, Stahl has both literally and figuratively transformed the Symphony into a landmark cultural institution and professional orchestra of exceptional quality. His achievements, known so well locally, are also recognized nationally including by an award for imaginative programming from the American Symphony Orchestra League.

“Under David’s visionary leadership, the CSO really took off and over the course of his tenure, it has evolved into a first rate regional orchestra, one of the best in the country,” said Charleston’s Mayor Joseph Riley, “With his inimitable charisma, enthusiasm and high musical standards, he built the core of the orchestra into a 35-member group of conservatory trained professional musicians who play as well as any professional orchestral musicians anywhere in this country.”

During the balance of this season, the Charleston Symphony will assemble a Music Director Search Committee composed of representatives from throughout the community. Beginning next season, the Symphony’s 75th Anniversary season, and continuing into the following year, candidates will be invited to conduct programs throughout the season. It’s an opportunity for the entire Charleston community to be involved in the search for the new Music Director.

The Orchestra opened its 2009-2010 season with a record-setting opening night in its Merrill Lynch Masterworks Series with highlights from Charleston’s own opera, *Porgy and Bess*.

Today is also the launch of the Symphony’s annual youth outreach program. Symphony musicians are introducing young people to music in schools throughout the tri-county area. Via the youth outreach programs, more than 16,000 young people every year experience the symphonic music through in-school programs and Young People’s Concerts.

Since 1936, the Charleston Symphony Orchestra, South Carolina’s largest full-time performing arts organization, has been a focal point of Charleston’s vibrant arts community. The Orchestra’s mission is to promote the enjoyment and appreciation of music among visitors and residents of the Charleston area, and to make music a vital part of the area’s cultural life. Its artistic excellence, youth education programs and community outreach have made the Charleston Symphony Orchestra a central component in the rich cultural foundation of this region.

Additional biography information and photos available at
www.charlestonsymphony.com/presskit

Qualified Music Director candidates should send their resumes to
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