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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

New Music Director for the PGSO

Board Chair, John DeGrace is pleased to announce the appointment of Michael Hall as its new Music Director of the Prince George Symphony Orchestra, effective August 1, 2017. “This is an important milestone in the life of the Symphony,” said DeGrace, “and is the culmination of more than a year’s hard work by the Board’s Search Committee.”

Born and raised in Toronto, Hall has been working as a conductor in the United States since 2002.

Currently in his third season as Music Director of the Kennett Symphony, Kennett Square, Pennsylvania, Maestro Hall is recognized for his inspired performances, imaginative programming, and passion for developing new audiences.

Formerly Music Director of the Southwest Florida Symphony from 2007 to 2012, Hall’s drive for artistic excellence, innovative thematic programming, and collaborations with celebrated guest artists resulted in unprecedented artistic growth, audience praise, and enthusiastic reviews.

Hall will be moving to Prince George this summer and upon accepting this position said: “I felt an immediate musical connection with your wonderful orchestra. I see such great potential in the organization and I can't wait to get started. Also, being born and raised in Toronto, it is thrilling to come back home and work again in Canada. I look forward to learning more about Prince George and discover the unique qualities of the region.”

For more information, please contact Teresa Saunders, Acting General Manager at: 250-562-0800 or 250-981-1709.

(Biography and photo attached below.)

Michael Hall

Biography

Currently in his third season as Music Director of the Kennett Symphony, Maestro Hall is recognized for his inspired performances, imaginative programming, and passion for developing new audiences. Notable achievements in Hall's first two seasons include: the orchestra's first free concert, first ever commission to celebrate their 75th anniversary, free admission to dress rehearsals, and an expanded orchestra on stage. In addition to his recent appointment as Principal Guest Conductor of Florida's Space Coast Symphony, Hall has appeared with many of today's leading ensembles, including the Houston Symphony, the Toronto Symphony, the Vancouver Symphony, the Louisiana Philharmonic, the Orquesta Sinfónica Nacional de Costa Rica, the Toledo Symphony, the Windsor Symphony, the Manitoba Chamber Orchestra, and the Northeastern Pennsylvania Philharmonic. This upcoming season includes his debut with Symphoria, engagements with the Prince George Symphony Orchestra in British Columbia, Canada, and the Great Falls Symphony in Montana, where he is a finalist for the Music Director position with both orchestras, as well as a return to the Tucson Symphony, with whom he has a special relationship and has been a frequent guest conductor in multiple concert series over the past nine seasons.

Formerly Music Director of the Southwest Florida Symphony from 2007 to 2012, Hall's drive for artistic excellence, innovative thematic programming, and collaborations with celebrated guest artists resulted in unprecedented artistic growth, audience praise, and enthusiastic reviews. Some of the Southwest Florida Symphony's highlights during Maestro Hall's tenure include two world premieres commissioned and performed for the orchestra's 50th anniversary season and pioneering the Orchestra's first "Discovery" concert— a multimedia educational concert experience designed as an entry point to bring new audiences to symphonic music. Hall also planned, developed and executed the groundbreaking "Glow in the Dark" concert experience. Targeting younger audiences, the program offered real-time program notes accessible on their mobile devices during the performance. This program received national attention in *Symphony* magazine.

The successful partnerships between Hall and the orchestras he has collaborated with have received consistent critical acclaim:

"Hall really took charge in Gustav Holst's Mars, The Bringer of War and was true to the written manuscript in a way that few conductors are today." (Winnipeg Free Press)

"Hall's allegros were brisk, sculpted, crisp. In some of the quiet, slow movements, Hall dared to be extra quiet and extra slow, striking a mood but never losing the line."(Orange County Register)

“Hall’s sense of phrasing, magical sweep, and care for a blended balance, all added up to a sensational performance. The build-up pathway to the final coda was simply thrilling. The manner in which the {Southwest Florida Symphony}orchestra has continued to grow in musical style and discipline under his direction has been awesome.” (Naples Daily News)

The concert concluded with Dvorak’s Symphony no.9 “From the New World’. Without the score, Hall was immersed in his music, his audience transfixed in their own new world. This was the Kennett Symphony as they had never heard before. Hall raised the bar in this first concert of the conductor search series to quite a height; an opening concert that had the audience giving standing ovations and cries of ‘Bravo!’ (Chadds Ford Live)

Before being appointed Music Director of the Southwest Florida Symphony, Michael Hall held the position of Associate Conductor with the Pacific Symphony in California, where he developed innovative Family Concerts based on his own original scripts. Hall’s success in California led to his initial three year position being extended to an unprecedented six year tenure. During Michael’s appointment as Resident Conductor with the Winnipeg Symphony Orchestra, he worked with the orchestra in every concert series, most notably in their acclaimed New Music Festival. Upon completion of his tenure, Hall was awarded the “Keys to the City” by Mayor Glen Murray for his outstanding contributions to the arts.

A passionate advocate for music education, both in the concert hall and in the classroom, Maestro Hall has conducted many noteworthy college and youth orchestras including the Pacific Symphony Youth Orchestra, the Winnipeg Symphony Youth Orchestra, and the Orchestra of the Bob Cole Conservatory of Music at California State University. During the 2012/13 season, Hall was Visiting Guest Artist, Conductor in Residence at Ball State University’s School of Music in Indiana, and this season, has accepted an invitation as Visiting Guest Professor at Ithaca College’s School of Music.

Hall holds a Master’s degree in conducting from the University of Michigan, having studied with renowned conducting pedagogue Gustav Meier, and a DipRAM from the Royal Academy of Music in London, where he worked with Sir Colin Davis. While studying in England, Hall also held the position of Assistant conductor of the Havant Symphony Orchestra in the UK.

Recognized for his talent among his peers, Maestro Hall was a finalist in the International Conducting Competition in Besançon France and was awarded Third Prize in the Cadaques Orchestra International Conducting Competition in Spain.

