



UNIVERSITY OF
SOUTH CAROLINA
School of Music

Dear Friends,

In April, Dr. Donald Portnoy conducted his final concert as director of the USC Symphony Orchestra. His 31 years directing the university's premier orchestra has been marked by countless accolades, and his music leadership has drawn out the very best in thousands of young musicians.

With change comes renewal and opportunity. Beginning in August, Dr. Scott Weiss, Sarah Bolick Smith Distinguished Professor of Music and conductor of the renowned USC Wind Ensemble, winner of the 2014 American Prize, will be the interim director and conduct the USC Symphony Orchestra. The 2017-2018 season will offer students the opportunity to study and perform music ranging from the standard symphonic literature to exciting new works for symphony orchestra, and will feature a variety of virtuosic soloists.

We are thrilled to present to our audience a fully-staged performance of Leonard Bernstein's *MASS* with Opera at USC in March 2018. The epic stage production includes two orchestras, a rock band, a blues band, several choirs, singers, dancers and actors, and features as the Celebrant acclaimed Seattle tenor Kevin Vortmann, who recently performed the role to critical praise with the Philadelphia Orchestra.

Dr. Weiss and the musicians of the USC Symphony Orchestra are excited to present our next season. Featuring repertoire spanning four centuries, the season showcases the amazing talent we have in our world-class School of Music. Highlights include beloved symphonies by Beethoven, Tchaikovsky, Mahler, and Shostakovich, and terrific concerti featuring several of USC's outstanding faculty soloists. And, of course, we eagerly anticipate the return to USC of cellist Zuill Bailey, winner of the 2017 Grammy Award for Best Classical Instrumental Solo.

With your support, the USC Symphony Orchestra can continue to present challenging programs for young musicians and audiences. Please consider supporting our artistic and educational endeavors by making a gift to the USC Symphony Orchestra.

Your contribution, in any amount, is welcomed and appreciated. Thank you in advance for your support!

You can give online at <https://giving.sc.edu/givenow.aspx>, by calling Polly Laffitte at 803-777-4337, or by email at plaffitte@mozart.sc.edu.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Tayloe Harding".

Dean Tayloe Harding