



## *News Update*

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DATE: January 6, 2016

### **For Immediate Release**

## **DAVID DEVEAU ANNOUNCES PLANS TO STEP DOWN AS ARTISTIC DIRECTOR IN 2017**

Rockport Music announces that Artistic Director David Deveau plans to step down from his role following the Rockport Chamber Music Festival of 2017. Deveau announced to the Board of Trustees in November that he plans to focus on his own artistic endeavors as both a performer and recording artist. With his recent, highly acclaimed CD release of *Siegfried Idyll* on the Steinway label and his recording with longtime collaborator violinist Andrés Cárdenes (scheduled for release Spring 2016), he has decided to focus on recordings and performances in the coming years. In David's words:

My role here as artistic director is truly fulfilling... but there is still a great deal of piano music I wish to explore, study, perform and record. Much of my life for the past two decades has been planning and programming concerts for other artists. While I have concurrently maintained my own playing career as well, I've had less time at the piano than I'd like. It's now time to change the balance in favor of my own artistic growth.

With over 20 years as Artistic Director, David Deveau has brought the Rockport Chamber Music Festival to new heights. Executive Director Tony Beadle expresses that "During his 20 years, David Deveau completely transformed the Rockport Chamber Music Festival, making it one of the best known festivals anywhere. He brought artists of international stature to Rockport, and provided a vision of what might be possible, as evidenced by the opening of the Shalin Liu Performance Center in 2010. More than that, David is a wonderful artist, and we all look forward to his return to the concert stage and to recording on a more regular basis. I have greatly enjoyed working with David as a friend and colleague and am happy that he is pursuing what he loves so much."

Rockport Music's Board of Trustees Chair Susanne Guyer says "We are most grateful to David for his vision of music excellence for Rockport Music and the many years he spent fulfilling that vision as our classical music curator, extraordinary concert pianist, and good friend. We look forward to hearing more of David's music—performed at the Shalin Liu Performance Center, other concert halls, and in his recordings. Our challenge now is to build on David's remarkable legacy of artistic excellence."

Although his plans are to leave following the Rockport Chamber Music Festival of 2017, David Deveau has offered to remain in his role beyond that time if his successor is not in place. He says: "I wouldn't think of leaving this organization, one that means so very much to me, in the lurch. The Board has my assurance that I will do all in my power to facilitate a smooth transition to new artistic leadership."

An Artistic Director Search Committee has been formed and will begin the process for finding David Deveau's successor as artistic director.

## **ABOUT ROCKPORT MUSIC**

Founded in 1981 as the Rockport Chamber Music Festival, Rockport Music presents exceptional concerts and cultural events in the "stunning acoustics and dramatic setting" (*Boston Globe*) of the Shalin Liu Performance Center. Best known for its summer chamber music festival that will celebrate its 35<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2016, the Festival features some of the world's finest ensembles and soloists. Since opening the renowned Shalin Liu Performance Center in 2010, Rockport Music has expanded its offerings to include year-round presentations of jazz, folk, pop, and world music, as well as a jazz festival each August. Throughout the year, Rockport Music also presents high-definition broadcasts including the Metropolitan Opera, National Theatre (London), Bolshoi Ballet, and special film presentations. Rockport Music's Education and community outreach activities serve nearly 10,000 students and adults throughout Cape Ann and the North Shore annually.

Rockport Music is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization and is supported in part by the Massachusetts Cultural Council.



## **THE ROCKPORT CHAMBER MUSIC FESTIVAL**

Founded in 1981 by Lila Deis, David Alpher, and Paul Sylva, the Rockport Chamber Music Festival began as a two-week festival. Under David Deveau's artistic leadership of 20 years, the Festival has grown from a 16-concert, four-week event to 24 concerts in June and July, with additional family concerts, masterclasses, open rehearsals, and lectures. The Festival has commissioned several chamber works from today's most significant composers, including John Harbison, Elena Ruehr, Charles Wuorinen, and the late Gunther Schuller—to be premiered at the Festival. Additionally, the Festival hosted some of the world's most important performers, including the Emerson and Juilliard quartets; pianists Garrick Ohlsson, Peter Serkin, and Jeremy Denk; violinists Christian Tetzlaff and Midori; as well as cellist Yo-Yo Ma. The Festival has a long history of presenting many of Boston's most remarkable artists, including chamber orchestra A Far Cry, the Boston Trio, 85 year-old pianist Russell Sherman, and the Borromeo and Parker string quartets. Under Deveau's leadership, the Festival introduced the Rising Star series featuring young artists and recent competition winners on the verge of major careers. The Rockport Chamber Music Festival is now a nationally recognized destination for performers and audiences alike.

## **ROCKPORT MUSIC PRESS CONTACT:**

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