



## *News Update*

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### **For Immediate Release**

## **ROCKPORT MUSIC ANNOUNCES BARRY SHIFFMAN AS ITS NEW ARTISTIC DIRECTOR**

After an extensive search process, Rockport Music is pleased to announce the appointment of violinist and violist Barry Shiffman as Artistic Director of Rockport Music. As Artistic Director he will be responsible for planning the Rockport Chamber Music Festival as well as all other classical music concerts throughout the year. He assumes the position in September 2017. However, until that time his appointment will be as Artistic Director Designate in order to begin planning the 2018 Rockport Music Chamber Music Festival and other classical concerts earlier that season.

Internationally acclaimed violinist and violist Barry Shiffman is highly regarded as a musician, educator and administrator. He was co-founder of the St. Lawrence String Quartet, and currently serves as both the Associate Dean and Director of Chamber Music at the Glenn Gould School, and Dean of the Phil and Eli Taylor Performance Academy for Young Artists at The Royal Conservatory of Music in Toronto. He has also served in numerous roles at the Banff Centre, including Director of Music Programs (2006-2010), Artistic Director of the Centre's Summer Music Programs (2010-2016), and Executive Director of the Banff International String Quartet Competition, which he continues to direct.

In regard to the appointment, Barry Shiffman states:

I am overwhelmed with excitement at this new position. Great performances need three things, all of which are in abundance at Rockport Music, exceptional musicians, curious listeners and a glorious sounding concert hall. The momentum and growth that Rockport Music has shown since its move to the Shalin Liu Performance Center is inspiring. I am looking forward to building on this success and continuing the tradition of excellence that has made Rockport a sought-after destination for music.

Rockport Music's Board of Trustees Chair Susanne Guyer says "At the very heart of Rockport Music is the Rockport Chamber Music Festival. For the last 21 seasons, David Deveau has brought many of the world's great artists, unique collaborations and composer commissions to our stage, creating one of the

world's most well-known chamber music festivals. Barry Shiffman is well positioned to build upon this legacy. Barry has deep experience as a creative artistic director and as a dynamic performer—ready to take Rockport Music to new heights."

Executive Director Tony Beadle shares that "During the search process, we were exceptionally pleased with the many highly qualified candidates who were interested in the position. The Search Committee was particularly impressed with Barry's musicianship and experience. His artistic vision has found the perfect home here at Rockport Music, building on David Deveau's rich artistic contribution. To say we are all very excited is an understatement."

In addition to his Artistic Director position at Rockport Music, Mr. Shiffman will continue his roles at the Banff Centre and Royal Conservatory of Music. He will maintain his residence in Canada, but will be in-residence in Rockport during the Rockport Chamber Music Festival.

### **ABOUT BARRY SHIFFMAN**

Violinist and violist Barry Shiffman has a rich and varied career as a performer, recording artist, teacher, and administrator. Shiffman made his debut with the Toronto Symphony Orchestra at the age of 15. In 1989, he co-founded the St. Lawrence String Quartet (SLSQ). During his 17 years with the quartet he appeared in over 2,000 concerts in venues around the globe (including Rockport Music), and recorded several critically acclaimed discs under an exclusive contract with EMI Classics.

In addition to performing and recording, Shiffman is a sought after violin and viola teacher and chamber music coach. As part of his role in the St. Lawrence, Shiffman served as artist in-residence at Stanford University from 1998 to 2006 and as visiting artist at the University of Toronto from 1995 to 2006.

Passionately committed to the composers of our time, he has been involved in the premieres of hundreds of new works, both in the St. Lawrence Quartet and beyond.

From 2006-2010, he served as Director of Music Programs at Banff Centre and from 2010-2016 was the Artistic Director of the Centre's Summer Music Programs and Executive Director of the Banff International String Quartet Competition. During his tenure at The Banff Centre he introduced new programming in classical music performance, composition, popular music and Jazz and oversaw the dramatic growth of The Banff International String Quartet Competition (BISQC), which he continues to direct.

Since the fall of 2010, he has been at The Royal Conservatory of Music in Toronto, as both Associate Dean and Director of Chamber Music at the Glenn Gould School and Dean of the Phil and Eli Taylor Performance Academy for Young Artists. A sought after juror, he has served on the jury of the Tchaikovsky and Montreal Violin Competitions, as well as London's Wigmore Hall, Geneva, Banff, and Lyon String Quartet Competitions.

In addition to his work at Banff Centre and The Royal Conservatory, Shiffman has served as Executive Artistic Director of Vancouver's Music in the Morning Concerts since 2009.

He is the recipient of the Nadia Boulanger Prize for Excellence in the Art of Teaching awarded by the Longy School of Cambridge, Massachusetts, and received an honorary doctorate from the University of

Calgary. His formal studies were at the Royal Conservatory in Toronto, University of Toronto, Utrecht Conservatory, Hartt School of Music, Juilliard School and Yale University.

He makes his home in Toronto with his wife Robin and daughters Lily and Zoe.

### **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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