



For Immediate Release

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Riverside County Philharmonic Names Tomasz Golka as New Music Director

Two year search concludes today with announcement

(Riverside, CA, June 2, 2010) -- The Riverside County Philharmonic will formally announce today at its annual meeting the selection of Tomasz Golka as its next Music Director. Golka was selected from seven candidates that guest conducted the orchestra during the past two seasons. He replaces the late Patrick Flynn who held the post for 18 years.

“Mr. Golka conducted our October 3, 2009 concert and earned very high marks from the orchestra and the search committee we set up two years ago,” said Betsy Herrick, who is completing her one year term as Philharmonic president. “He is young, dynamic and has a number of creative ideas that will take the Philharmonic to a new performance level. The orchestra is really charged up about working with him.”

Tomasz joins the Philharmonic at a pivotal point. The orchestra has just completed its 50th season and is making plans to spend all of next season at the newly renovated Fox Performing Arts Center. The performance space is much different than the Philharmonic’s home venue of 50 years, the Riverside Municipal Auditorium.

According to Herrick, one of the things that impressed the Philharmonic is Golka’s ideas about expanding audiences.

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“Tomasz has spent a lot of his time creating musical programs that have dramatically increased the number of persons attending Lubbock Symphony concerts. He’s done this by meeting people, learning about their musical interests and building programs that appeal to broader audiences,” she aids. “When Tomasz heard about the City of Riverside’s Arts and Innovation initiative he understood immediately what such an effort could mean to the community and is eager to play a part in this effort.”

More than 100 patrons, donors and orchestra members are expected to be on hand for the announcement at the Philharmonic’s annual meeting at 6 p.m. today at the City of Riverside’s Grier Pavilion, located on the 7th floor of city hall.

Since winning 1st Prize at the 2003 Eduardo Mata International Conducting Competition, Golka has appeared with orchestras in the Americas and Europe to great critical acclaim. He is Music Director of the Lubbock Symphony Orchestra, which has seen a resurgence of growth and vitality under his direction since taking that post in the 2007-2008 season. This past season he guest conducted with the Warsaw Philharmonic, Fort Worth Symphony, and River Oaks Chamber Orchestra, among others.

A composer himself, Golka, in addition to conducting his own works, regularly commissions and premieres works of other living composers. With the Lubbock Symphony, he premiered the *Symphony* of Mathew Fuerst, a work written especially for that orchestra during his inaugural season there as Music Director. Golka is also a highly accomplished violinist, serving as Concertmaster for the renowned Spoleto USA Festival Orchestra and the Owensboro Symphony Orchestra (1999-2000).

Golka studied conducting with David Effron at Indiana University and Gustav Meier and Markand Thakar at the Peabody Conservatory. He also holds Bachelor's and Master's degrees from Rice University. Golka was born in Warsaw, Poland in 1975.

Established in 1959, the Riverside County Philharmonic is an all professional orchestra which traditionally performs a 4 to 6 concert season plus numerous performances in communities such as Temecula, Lake Arrowhead, Cerritos, and Lake Elsinore. Through its Adventures in Music program the orchestra provides trios and ensembles to local schools. Its Heartstrings program makes up to 2,000 tickets available each year to area nonprofit human service organizations for distribution to seniors, abused women and children, persons affected by HIV/AIDS and persons with disabilities.

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