



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Tara Cowherd, Interim Administrator
(402) 212-8876
tara@steamboatorchestra.org

Steamboat Symphony Orchestra Embarks on New Journey in New Year

New Executive Director Stuart Handloff Appointed

STEAMBOAT SPRINGS, CO – The year of 2017 marks a new beginning for the 25th season of the Steamboat Symphony Orchestra. Formally aligned with the Steamboat Springs Arts Council, the orchestra embarks on a new journey starting with the formation of its own board of directors and appointment of Stuart Handloff as executive director.

A long-time member of the local theater and performing arts community, Handloff has been in residence in the Yampa Valley area since 1972. “I am extremely excited for this opportunity”, said Handloff. “It’s the perfect confluence of my career in the arts world – volunteering, performing, directing and producing – and now focuses on the rebirth of the Steamboat Symphony Orchestra. The SSO is an extraordinary asset to our community – especially for a community of our size. I’m very much looking forward to working with the new board and guiding the orchestra into our next phase of development.” Handloff also holds the position of artistic director of the Piknik Theatre Festival, a 16-day admission-free repertory theater summer festival held in Steamboat Springs.

Ernest Richardson, music director and principal conductor for the Steamboat Symphony Orchestra, is excited by the new energy and expertise Handloff brings. “We have only begun to explore what is possible in the service of our community,” said Richardson. “Stuart and I share a belief in the power inherent in the sound of orchestral music to move an audience. We believe music can become the second language of Steamboat and are committed to educational endeavors and engagement activities that weave the SSO into the fabric of our community. When we review the history of our orchestra, I believe that the appointment of Stuart will be seen as a pivotal moment in the success of our organization. It also affirms the commitment of the board of directors to operate the organization in a manner that is transparent, professional and honors our obligation to effective stewardship of the resources invested in our organization.”

Richardson is equally excited at the opportunity to build upon collaborations with performers, artistic organizations and new community partners, including opportunities to perform in venues in addition to its home at Strings Music Pavilion. Avid community supporter and new member of the board of directors, Barbara Winternitz, concurs, “I consider the opportunity to work with Stuart both an honor and an adventure. The SSO is now poised to move forward with its artistry, collaborations and commitments to Steamboat Springs. We plan to increase our influence on music education, provide more occasions to perform, and, of course, supply our audience with the best musical events possible.”

Members of the community enjoyed a recent performance at Holy Name Catholic Church, commemorating the year-long residency of a rare copy selected from the handwritten and illuminated St. John’s Bible, on display in its chapel. The capacity-filled concert featured concertmaster Teresa Steffen Greenlee and internationally renowned oboist and multi-talented musician, Eduardo Cassapia. The church plans to host additional performances featuring the SSO throughout the year. For glimpses of the recent concert at Holy Name, visit the orchestra’s Facebook page at facebook.com/steamboatsymphonyorchestra.

Search committee and former board member Linda Hamlet stated, "I am very excited that Stuart will further the work of a resident orchestra with a myriad of collaborative opportunities, including music education and programs with other local arts organizations. We look forward to our journey with Stuart as our new executive director."

Ernest Richardson and the Steamboat Symphony Orchestra return in concert on April 8 and 9, 2017 at the Steamboat Music Pavilion.

#####

Steamboat Symphony Orchestra is a 501(c)3 organization based in Steamboat Springs, Colorado whose mission is to promote orchestral music in the Yampa Valley by providing professional quality performances and education experiences for community musicians of all ages. Founded in 1991, the orchestra has grown from a volunteer ensemble to an orchestra comprised of professional musicians from the area and beyond. Throughout the year, the organization engages the community with educational activities and immersion weekends. Musicians from the orchestra also perform as small ensembles in the community and surrounding areas. For more information, visit steamboatorchestra.org.

#####