

SATURDAY, MAY 13, 2017
NEWS RELEASE

Contact: Anne Catherine Murray, Executive Director
annecatherine@soaugusta.org, 706-826-4705



SOA WELCOMES NEW MUSIC DIRECTOR

Augusta, GA – Symphony Orchestra Augusta welcomes Dirk Meyer as Music Director. Maestro Meyer was selected from the over two hundred excellent candidates from around the world after being thoroughly vetted by the Music Director Search Committee and spending a week in Augusta conducting the Orchestra and interacting with SOA patrons, musicians, staff, and Board of Directors.

German conductor Dirk Meyer is also Music Director of the Duluth Superior Symphony Orchestra and the Lyric Opera of the North. First Prize Winner of The American Prize in orchestral conducting, Meyer has guest conducted many orchestras, including the Toronto and Edmonton Symphony Orchestras in Canada, the Phoenix Symphony Orchestra, the Orlando Philharmonic, Symphoria, the Symphony Orchestras of Springfield and Missouri, as well as the Naples Philharmonic and the Florida Orchestra. Meyer is also the author of Chamber Orchestra and Ensemble Repertoire and has led many world and U.S. premiers, including works by Arvo Pärt, Miguel del Aguila, and Joby Talbot. Between 2004-2006, Meyer served as Music Director to the Mason Symphony Orchestra and the Assistant Conductor of the Traverse Symphony. Meyer has studied with teachers like Neeme Järvi and Jorma Panula and assisted with numerous performances at the Deutsche Oper am Rhein, the Vienna State Opera, and the Teatro Real in Madrid.

SOA Executive Director Anne Catherine Murray stated, “My staff and I could not be more pleased that Dirk is joining our team. We all appreciate his unique combination of skillful leadership and humility, and I truly look forward to the expertise and fresh perspective he will bring to our mission.”

“I am thrilled to be joining the team of Symphony Orchestra Augusta. It is very apparent that this already fantastic orchestra has substantial artistic and organizational growth in its future,” Meyer shared, adding, “The opening of the Miller will be a pivotal moment in the history of the organization and a celebration of culture within downtown Augusta. There could not be a better time to become a part of SOA and this community.”

SOA Board President Ora Parish added, “On behalf of the Symphony Board, Executive Committee, and Music Director Search Committee, we are thrilled to welcome Dirk Meyer and his fiance Paula to the SOA family and as soon-to-be residents here in Greater Augusta! With anticipation we look forward to the Dirk’s collaboration with the wonderful musicians and camaraderie with the devoted patrons in the years ahead.”

Now in its sixty-second season, Symphony Orchestra Augusta is the primary professional orchestra for the 768,000 residents of the Central Savannah River Area and pursues its mission “to share the joy of great musical performance with our audience – together we are music” through annual symphonic, Pops, and chamber concerts that reach approximately 15,000 people each year. Via its education and community outreach programs, SOA further strives to foster broad accessibility to live classical music performance and a lifelong appreciation of the art form among people of all ages, backgrounds, and means. SOA’s outreach programs currently serve approximately 27,000 youth and adults in communities within a seventy-five mile radius of Augusta.

#

*The Augusta Symphony Inc dba Symphony Orchestra Augusta is a 501(c)(3) non-profit entity and is supported in part by an award from the **Georgia Council for the Arts** through the appropriations of the Georgia General Assembly. The Georgia Council is a Partner Agency of the National Endowment for the Arts, which believes that a great nation deserves great art. The Augusta Symphony is also supported in part by the **Columbia County Community and Leisure Services**. The Symphony is also supported by the Greater Augusta Arts Council through appropriations from **Augusta-Richmond County**.*



*Our mission is to share the joy of great musical performance with our audience.
Together, we are music.*

Post Office Box 579 | Augusta, GA 30903-0579 | Phone: 706.826.4705 | Fax: 706.826.4735
www.soaugusta.org