



PETER PASTREICH RETIRES AS EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF PHILHARMONIA BAROQUE ORCHESTRA

Veteran Orchestra Leader Retires at End of Year

San Francisco, CA – September 12, 2011 -- Board President Paul Sugarman announced today that Peter Pastreich will retire as executive director of Philharmonia Baroque Orchestra, effective December 31, 2011. Pastreich assumed the role on June 1, 2009, and is stepping down after successfully reaching several important milestones in the growth of the Orchestra.

During Pastreich's tenure as executive director, Philharmonia Baroque built and strengthened the Board of Trustees, created a highly effective administrative staff, formed its own recording company and issued three critically acclaimed CDs, completed its first tour of the major American summer music festivals, began the first regular radio broadcast series by a period instrument ensemble, created an education program bringing period instrument music to students throughout the Bay Area, and increased ticket sales in a period when most orchestras were losing audience. "I'm personally grateful to Peter for sharing his leadership and experience with us, and while we are very sad to see him leave, he has set the organization on a path toward continuing future success," said Sugarman. "It has been an honor and a privilege to work for Philharmonia Baroque, and I hope to be part of the Philharmonia Baroque family for the rest of my life," said Peter Pastreich. "My two and a half years at Philharmonia Baroque have been in many ways the most challenging and satisfying of my more than fifty years managing orchestras. At this point I am anxious to return to projects I put on hold when I joined Philharmonia Baroque, to spend more time with my family, and to live a substantial part of the year at our home in Provence."



Peter Pastreich served as executive director of the San Francisco Symphony during its period of most dramatic growth, from April 1978 to April 1999 – a tenure of 21 years marked by numerous historic accomplishments and working partnerships with music directors Michael Tilson Thomas, Herbert Blomstedt and Edo De Waart. From the beginning of his career in orchestra management, Pastreich has been passionately devoted to education and to mentoring young professionals in the field. For the ten years previous to his joining Philharmonia Baroque, Pastreich served as a leader in this area, organizing and directing the "Essentials of Management" seminar for the League of American

Orchestras. He also developed an international consulting practice that included clients such as the Berlin Philharmonic, London's South Bank and The Detroit Symphony. In 1999, he was made a *Chevalier dans l'Ordre des Arts et des Lettres* by the French government and was awarded the League of American Orchestras' Gold Baton Award.

San Francisco's Philharmonia Baroque Orchestra has been dedicated to historically-informed performance of Baroque, Classical and early-Romantic music on original instruments since its inception in 1981. Under Music Director Nicholas McGegan, Philharmonia Baroque has been named Ensemble of the Year by *Musical America*, and "an ensemble for early music as fine as any in the world today" by *Los Angeles Times* critic Alan Rich.

The Orchestra performs an annual subscription series in the San Francisco Bay Area, and is regularly heard on tour in the United States and internationally. The Orchestra has its own professional chorus, the Philharmonia Chorale, directed by Bruce Lamott, and welcomes such talented guest artists as mezzo-soprano Susan Graham, countertenor David Daniels, conductor Jordi Savall, cellist Steven Isserlis, violinist Monica Huggett, recorder player Marion Verbruggen, and soprano Isabel Bayrakdarian.

The Orchestra has had numerous successful collaborations with celebrated musicians, composers, and choreographers. Philharmonia Baroque premiered its first commissioned work, a one-act opera by Jake Heggie entitled *To Hell and Back*, in November 2006. In collaboration with the Mark Morris Dance Group, Philharmonia Baroque gave the U.S. premieres of Morris' highly acclaimed productions of Henry Purcell's *King Arthur* and Jean-Philippe Rameau's ballet-opera *Platée*. The Orchestra will be collaborating again with Mark Morris later this month in a production of Purcell's *Dido and Aeneas*, to open the Cal Performance 2011-2012 Season at Zellerbach Hall in Berkeley.

Among the most-recorded period-instrument orchestras in the United States or in Europe, Philharmonia Baroque has made thirty-two highly praised recordings - including its *Gramophone* award winning recording of Handel's *Susanna* - for harmonia mundi, Reference Recordings, and BMG. In 2011, the orchestra launched its own label, Philharmonia Baroque Productions, with an acclaimed recording of Berlioz' *Les Nuits d'été* and Handel arias featuring mezzo-soprano Lorraine Hunt Lieberson, followed with a disc of Haydn Symphonies and one featuring Vivaldi violin concertos including *The Four Seasons*.

Philharmonia Baroque Orchestra was founded by harpsichordist and early music pioneer Laurette Goldberg. Additional information is available at www.philharmonia.org.

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complete biography of the Orchestra, visit www.philharmonia.org/bio.html.