



Press Release

**ORCHESTRA OF ST. LUKE'S ANNOUNCES THE APPOINTMENT OF ALEX JOHNSTON AS
NEW DIRECTOR OF THE DIMENNA CENTER FOR CLASSICAL MUSIC**

**Johnston Brings More Than Twenty Years of Arts Management Experience to the Post
Which He Will Take up on January 6, 2020**

New York, NY, December 17, 2019 — The Orchestra of St. Luke's (OSL) announces the appointment of **Alex Johnston** as the new Director of The DiMenna Center for Classical Music. Recruited through a competitive national search, Johnston comes to the position with more than 20 years of arts management experience in New York's non-profit arts sector. He will take up his post on January 6, 2020, after completing a two-year-tenure as General Manager of National Sawdust.

James Roe, OSL President and Executive Director said, "The DiMenna Center is a vital resource to the musical life of New York City, supporting jobs in the creative sector and providing state-of-the-art rehearsal, recording, broadcast, and performance space for hundreds of ensembles and thousands of musicians each year. We are thrilled that Alex will be taking the helm at the Center to focus on meeting the evolving needs of the 21st-century musician. He will focus on expanding the center's technological capacity, developing ongoing infrastructure improvements, and expanding access across diverse constituencies."

"From my earliest experiences working with orchestras, it was clear that New York City needed a place like The DiMenna Center—a unique resource in New York for artists and ensembles." said Johnston. "I've long admired the Orchestra of St. Luke's for its forward-thinking, innovative spirit. The DiMenna Center is a manifestation of that spirit and I look forward to contributing to its mission and continued growth."

Alex Johnston's extensive experience includes concert production, facilities operation, and project and rental management at various arts organizations. He most recently has headed up venue operations as General Manager of National Sawdust in Brooklyn, overseeing its performance and recording spaces for a diverse range of artists and emerging composers. For more than a decade, Alex served as Director of Concert Production for the New York Philharmonic, managing operations for the orchestra's performances at Lincoln Center, Concerts in the Parks, and other New York venues, including the Park Avenue Armory and Met Museum. Previously, Alex held positions at the New Jersey Symphony Orchestra, American Composers Orchestra, and American Symphony Orchestra. He lives in Hoboken, New Jersey with his wife and daughter.

About The DiMenna Center for Classical Music

Opened in 2011 to meet a critical need in New York City's musical industry, **The DiMenna Center for Classical Music** is owned and operated by **Orchestra of St. Luke's**. As New York City's only acoustically-

optimized rehearsal and recording space dedicated to classical music, the Center is an unparalleled resource serving the entire musical community—from soloists to symphony orchestras—through affordable, state-of-the-art facilities.

The DiMenna Center has received more than 100,000 visitors, including more than 500 ensembles and artists such as Renée Fleming, Susan Graham, Itzhak Perlman, Emanuel Ax, Joshua Bell, Valery Gergiev, James Taylor, and Sting. Committed to serving the musical community and its Hell’s Kitchen neighborhood, The DiMenna Center hosts hundreds of neighbors, families, and schoolchildren each year for free education and community events. Over 500 Classical Music Ensembles (an estimated 30,000 musicians) have rehearsed, recorded, and performed at The DiMenna Center since its opening in 2011: 60 Orchestras, 325 Chamber Ensembles, 80 Contemporary Music Ensembles, and 55 vocal and opera groups.

In March 2019, with partner Audiosmith Digital Solutions, the Center opened a fully renovated **Control Room**. The only Dolby Atmos mix room in New York that has been purpose-built for music recording, production, and mixing, the Control Room is equipped with state-of-the-art features that include fiber optic connectivity for streaming, remote recording, and live broadcasts.

Since opening in 2011, 75 albums and commercial recordings have been made at The DiMenna Center, ranging from contemporary music to Broadway to feature film scores, and the TONY Awards pre-recorded tracks. To date, there have been 14 musical theater albums recorded at The DiMenna Center, including the original Broadway cast albums for *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory*, *SpongeBob SquarePants: The Musical*, *The Cher Show*, *A Bronx Tale*, and *Natasha, Pierre, and the Great Comet of 1812*, as well as Broadway revival cast albums for *Hello, Dolly!* starring Bette Midler, and *The King and I* starring Kelli O’Hara, plus twenty film and television scores, including *The Greatest Showman*, *Collateral Beauty*, *The Girl on the Train*, *Crazy Ex-Girlfriend*, and *Mozart in the Jungle*. Among recent recording projects at the Center are the 2020 Grammy Award-Nominated cast albums of *Moulin Rouge* and *Hadestown*, the music for the recently released film *The Joker*, and for the Emmy Award-winning series *The Marvelous Mrs. Maisel*.

Generally open seven days a week, 350 days a year, 9am to 10pm, The DiMenna Center operates near 95 percent capacity. Visit dimmenacenter.org

About Orchestra of St. Luke’s

Orchestra of St. Luke’s (OSL), an independent orchestra and arts organization, evolved from a group of virtuoso musicians who began performing concerts at Greenwich Village’s Church of St. Luke in the Fields in 1974. Now in its 45th season, the Orchestra performs over 70 times each year at venues throughout New York City and beyond. Celebrated expert in 18th-century music, Bernard Labadie, became OSL’s Principal Conductor in 2018, continuing the Orchestra’s long tradition of working with proponents of historical performance practice.

OSL’s signature programming includes an orchestra series presented by Carnegie Hall, now in its 33rd season; the OSL Bach Festival, presented in association with Carnegie Hall and at other venues; the Chamber Music Series presented at The Morgan Library & Museum, Brooklyn Museum, and Merkin Hall; the *Music in Color* free community concert tour of New York City’s five-boroughs; a summer residency at Caramoor Center for Music and the Arts, now in its 42nd season; and a creative partnership with Paul Taylor American Modern Dance, where OSL provides live musical accompaniment during the company’s annual Lincoln Center season.

OSL's education programs includes the Free School Concerts series, presenting innovative concerts to student audiences since 1977; Youth Orchestra of St. Luke's, providing free instrumental coaching to elementary and middle-school students; and the DeGaetano Composition Institute, providing emerging composers mentorship and creative support as they develop new works to be performed by the Orchestra.

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