

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Buffalo Philharmonic Orchestra Announces Executive Leadership Transition



BUFFALO, NY – Buffalo Philharmonic Orchestra Society Inc. Board of Trustees Chair Scott Stenlik announced today that President and Executive Director Daniel Hart will retire at the end of the calendar year, following more than two decades of transformative leadership.

“Buffalo became our home in 2004 when I was welcomed into the BPO family by Maestro Falletta, Ange Fatta, and the Board of Trustees,” said Hart. “Since then, our team has worked diligently to pursue JoAnn’s artistic vision while securing a firmer financial footing. Our endowment and audiences have grown as we continue to make marked progress since the Pandemic. I am very proud of what we have achieved together and incredibly proud of our outstanding musicians. They have never sounded better.”

Hart's tenure has been marked by significant milestones, including:

- Oversight of 60+ recording projects, numerous Grammy® nominations and awards, and creation of a digital presence reaching 150 countries monthly.
- The orchestra's first international tour to Europe since 1989, two appearances at Carnegie Hall, and several multi-city tours throughout Florida.
- Several successful fundraising campaigns for the endowment and Kleinhans Music Hall.
- Tripling of Youth Concert attendance and expanded collaborations with the Buffalo Public Schools, Buffalo AKG Art Museum, Irish Classical Theatre, Neglia Ballet, and Shea's Performing Arts Center.

Hart will remain as President through December 31, 2026, to support fundraising and program planning. He will cede oversight of day-to-day operations on September 1, 2026, to Associate Executive Director and Vice President for Development Jennifer Barbee on an interim basis.

Music Director JoAnn Falletta stated, "Dan has been an extraordinary partner and a visionary leader. His deep love for this orchestra and commitment to the region have been driving forces behind our greatest achievements. While I will miss our daily collaboration, he leaves us stronger, more vibrant, and poised for a brilliant future."

"Dan has built a solid team, and we are confident the BPO will seamlessly work through this transition," said Stenlik. "Our long-standing succession plan provides for a thoughtful search process led by a national executive recruitment firm to identify his successor."

ABOUT THE BUFFALO PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA

The Buffalo Philharmonic Orchestra Society, Inc. provides a resident, professional, major symphony orchestra of artistic excellence and integrity to enrich the quality of life in Western New York through the presentation of live symphonic music and other musical events, which educate and entertain the broadest possible audiences within and beyond the WNY region. Since 1940, the orchestra's permanent home has been Kleinhans Music Hall, a National Historic Landmark designed by Eliel and Eero Saarinen with an international reputation as one of the finest concert halls in the United States. Since its inception in 1935, the BPO has served as Buffalo's cultural ambassador. JoAnn Falletta is the Music Director of the GRAMMY Award-winning orchestra, which presents more than 120 Classics, Pops, Rock, Kids and Youth concerts each year. For more information, visit bpo.org.



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