

CSO Associate Conductor Peter Stafford Wilson Announces Final Season with the CSO

After serving the Columbus Symphony for 28 seasons, Associate Conductor Peter Stafford Wilson will take his leave from the organization at the conclusion of the 2017-18 season. Wilson has been a mainstay of the Columbus Symphony since joining the institution in 1990, conducting numerous Masterworks, Pops, Picnic with the Pops, and family concerts over the years, as well as helming several CSO education programs, including the Columbus All-City Orchestra and the Columbus Symphony Youth Orchestra (CSYO) which he toured internationally. In 2017, he was honored with Columbus City Schools' Outstanding Leadership Award, and a Greater Columbus Arts Council Community Arts Partnership Educator Award. Wilson debuted the CSYO at New York's prestigious Carnegie Hall in 2015, and will conclude his storied CSO career with a return performance of the CSYO at the world-famous venue in the spring of 2018.

"While I had originally planned to invest five years, it unexpectedly evolved into an extraordinary 28-year journey," stated Wilson. "As I look forward to new opportunities and expanding my roles in other markets, I will always reflect fondly on the unique privilege I've had to make fabulous music with the artists of the Columbus Symphony, and the opportunity to mold future generations of musicians and classical music patrons through my work with the youth orchestra programs. Much continued success to the Columbus Symphony, and thank you for every golden moment."

"Peter has been an amazing influence in the lives of so many aspiring musicians in central Ohio for almost three decades," stated Lisa Barton, CSO Board of Trustees Chair. "We are sad to see him go, but cannot thank him enough for his steadfast dedication to the CSO and the youth of our community."

About CSO Associate Conductor Peter Stafford Wilson

Wilson joined the Columbus Symphony in 1990 as assistant conductor, and was promoted to associate conductor in 1995. Since that time, he has appeared on all the CSO's subscription, education, and outreach series, and led a variety of CSO programs over the years, including Festival Weeks at the Southern Theatre, CSOventions, and Gospel Meets Symphony.

Wilson also pilots the Columbus Symphony's nationally renowned youth programs, conducting the senior orchestra, the Columbus Symphony Youth Orchestra, and the Columbus All-City Orchestra. Under Wilson's leadership, the CSYO has appeared at national conventions of the Music Educators National Conference and the League of American Orchestras. The group has also toured internationally, with highly acclaimed performances in Canada, Europe, China, and Hong Kong. In 2010, the CSO honored Wilson with an Honorary Music Educator of the Year Award for his 20 years of service to its education initiatives.

Wilson is also music director of the Springfield Symphony Orchestra (since 2001), and was awarded a 2010 League of American Orchestras/ASCAP Award for Adventuresome Programming for his commitment to contemporary American music in collaboration with the SSO. He also serves as music director of the Westerville Symphony at Otterbein University (since 1991), and principal conductor for the Tulsa Ballet (since 2012).

Nationally, Wilson has guest conducted the orchestras of Charlotte, Chautauqua, Dallas, Detroit, Erie, Indianapolis, Louisville, North Carolina, Phoenix, Seattle, and Syracuse among many others. Internationally, he has appeared in China, Europe, and South America.

In 2017, Wilson received the Outstanding Leadership Award from Columbus City Schools, and a Greater Columbus Arts Council Community Arts Partnership Educator Award.

Born in Greensboro, NC, Wilson graduated from the University of Cincinnati College-Conservatory of Music where he was a protégée of the late Thomas Schippers. He also attended L'Accademia Santa Cecilia in Rome, the Aspen Music School, and the Pierre Monteux School for Conductors. He has held conducting posts with the Canton Symphony Orchestra, the Eastern Music Festival, the Ohio Light Opera, and the Cincinnati Symphony, and enjoyed a lengthy association with the Cleveland Orchestra, acting as cover conductor for performances at Severance Hall and the Blossom Music Center.

Wilson resides in Westerville with wife Barbara, and when not conducting, is an avid golfer, wine enthusiast, and gourmet cook.

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The 2017-18 season is made possible in part by state tax dollars allocated by the Ohio Legislature to the Ohio Arts Council (OAC). The OAC is a state agency that funds and supports quality arts experiences to strengthen Ohio communities culturally, educationally, and economically. The CSO also appreciates the support of the Greater Columbus Arts Council, supporting the city's artists and arts organizations since 1973, and the Robert W. Stevenson, Preston Davis, and Kenneth L. Coe and Jack Barrow funds of The Columbus Foundation, assisting donors and others in strengthening our community for the benefit of all its citizens.

About the Columbus Symphony Orchestra

Founded in 1951, the Columbus Symphony is the only full-time, professional symphony in central Ohio. Through an array of innovative artistic, educational, and community outreach programming, the Columbus Symphony is reaching an expanding, more diverse audience each year. This season, the Columbus Symphony will share classical music with more than 200,000 people in central Ohio through concerts, radio broadcasts, and special programming. For more information, visit www.columbussymphony.com.

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