



Music Institute of Chicago

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Music Institute of Chicago Announces Dr. Mark George as New President and CEO

Chicago, IL –The Music Institute of Chicago (MIC) is pleased to announce the appointment of Dr. Mark George as President and Chief Executive Officer of the Music Institute of Chicago. Dr. George, current Director of the Hartt School Music Division in West Hartford, Connecticut, will assume his new post in February 2010 and oversee all areas of the organization including the Community School, Academy, Institute for Therapy through the Arts, and Cultural Events.

Dr. George succeeds past President Sel Kardan who accepted the position of President of The Colburn School in Los Angeles, California this fall. During his four-year tenure, Mr. Kardan was responsible for a number of growth initiatives including the addition of new campuses in Highland Park and Lake Forest and the creation of the Academy, a pre-conservatory program for gifted young musicians.

MIC Board Treasurer, John Piegras, led the search committee for Mr. Kardan's successor. After an efficient and well-organized search, Dr. George was named from a highly esteemed group of applicants. Dr. Gerald O. Strauch, MIC Board of Trustee Chair commented, "We are eagerly anticipating Mark's arrival. His experience as a teacher, musician, and leader makes him ideal, and we firmly believe he will support MIC's strong tradition of music education." Dr. George remarked, "I am so pleased to be joining the Music Institute of Chicago, an institution of such high quality and national renown. It is an honor to be given the opportunity to lead MIC into what will surely be a very bright future."

DR. MARK GEORGE

Dr. Mark George has served as director of the Hartt School Community Division since 2007. While at the Hartt School he developed several new Community Division programs including the David Einfeldt Chamber Music Seminar and the International Summer Ballet Academy.

Before joining the Hartt School, Dr. George served as Manager of Community Music Education, and subsequently as the Director of Distance Learning for the Cleveland Institute of Music. As director, Dr. George established his program as a national leader in adapting interactive videoconference technologies for music performance and teaching. He has produced thousands of music related videoconferences for a diverse array of schools, from primary levels to international conservatories of music.

An accomplished pianist, Dr. George has extensive experience both as a teacher and performer. He has held faculty positions at the Cleveland Institute of Music, Case Western Reserve University, Mount Union College and the Baldwin-Wallace College Conservatory of Music. A highly regarded pianist, he has performed and recorded extensively throughout the United States. His chamber ensemble, North Coast Trio, has won major competitions including grand-prize at the Fischhoff National Chamber Music Competition and first prize co-

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winner of the Chamber Music Yellow Springs Competition. He has appeared frequently as a recitalist and soloist with the Cleveland Chamber Symphony, Trinity Chamber Orchestra, Epicycle: An Ensemble for New Music, the University Circle Wind Ensemble and many others. Dr. George also led the resurgence of the 2006 Grammy award winning Cleveland Chamber Symphony, an orchestral ensemble dedicated to contemporary music. His board level leadership, striking performances, and inventive programming ideas helped to re-establish the ensemble as a major contemporary music force.

Dr. George holds a Bachelor of Music degree from the Cleveland Institute of Music, a Master of Music degree from Indiana University, and a Doctor of Music Arts degree from the Cleveland Institute of Music.

THE MUSIC INSTITUTE OF CHICAGO

At MIC we believe that music has the power to sustain and nourish the human spirit. The MIC mission is to provide the foundation for lifelong engagement with music. Founded in 1931, the Music Institute of Chicago is one of the oldest community music schools in Illinois. MIC is a member of the National Guild of Community Schools of the Arts and accredited by the National Association of Schools of Music.

Community School

MIC's Community School provides the highest quality music instruction through a dedicated and experienced team of faculty to approximately 5,000 students annually. The Community School offers traditional and Suzuki instruction, private lessons in all instruments and voice, group classes, and ensemble experiences to engage students of all ages, interests, abilities, economic and ethnic backgrounds in music-making. MIC's campus network includes Evanston, Highland Park, Lake Forest, Lincolnshire, and Winnetka teaching locations. MIC also offers lessons and programs at Steinway of Chicago stores in Northbrook and Downers Grove and early childhood programs at other locations throughout the North Shore. MIC community engagement and partnership programs reach an additional 6,500 in the Chicago Public Schools and other Chicago locations.

The Academy

A top national center for highly gifted pre-college musicians, The Academy program is located on the Ravinia Festival Campus in the John D. Harza Building. This specially tailored program includes a faculty of internationally recognized teachers and performers with a passion for developing young talent. The Academy offers significant performance and enrichment opportunities to help students excel towards professional careers in music.

Creative Arts Therapy

MIC's Institute for Therapy through the Arts provides clinical services in a nurturing environment designed to help those with psychological needs, developmental delays, and physical challenges express and communicate through comprehensive drama, music, movement, and visual art therapy. As one of the few comprehensive community-based arts therapy programs in the US, ITA currently serves 2,500 individuals at 92 sites in Cook, DuPage, Lake, and McHenry counties. In addition to three in-house clinic locations, ITA makes an impact through key partnerships at schools, adult day centers, hospitals, a drug rehabilitation center and domestic violence shelter.

Cultural Events

Located in the heart of downtown Evanston, MIC's acoustical and architectural gem, Nichols Concert Hall, provides a superb performance venue designed to enrich the cultural life of the community and provide a performance space and opportunities to MIC students and faculty. As a national leader in music education, MIC hosts world-renowned guest artists, new music and early music initiatives, children's concerts, master classes, lectures, and special events at the hall reaching approximately 14,000 people each year.

For more information about the Music Institute of Chicago please visit musicinst.org

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