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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DR. STEVEN ERRANTE ANNOUNCES RETIREMENT AS MUSIC DIRECTOR OF THE WILMINGTON SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

WILMINGTON, NC, January 12, 2024 – At the end of the 2024-25 season, Dr. Steven Errante will be retiring as Conductor and Music Director of the Wilmington Symphony Orchestra. Errante will have spent 43 years on the orchestral podium, 39 of them in Wilmington. He says, “the moments I have shared the stage with the Wilmington Symphony have been the professional thrill of my life”.

Since its inception in 1971, there have been only three conductors of the Wilmington Symphony. Errante is the third, following Dr. William F. Adcock, Jr. (1971-1982) and Dr. Joe Hickman (1981-1986). Over the years, the orchestra has grown in size and talent, and the orchestra has flourished under his guidance.

“Due to the dedication of the players and the hard work of the professional staff and WSO Board of Directors, the Wilmington Symphony is in a strong position to continue to be one of the anchors of culture in the Cape Fear region, and I look forward to welcoming a talented new Music Director to carry the orchestra into its future”.

We look forward to announcing our 2024-25 season this spring and know that Dr. Errante will be programming a season “to end all seasons”. More information about the Music Director search will be announced at a later date.

You can see Steven Errante conduct at the River Rhapsody concert on February 3, 2024 at the Wilson Center at CFCC.



About Wilmington Symphony Orchestra

The mission of the Wilmington Symphony Orchestra (WSO) is to provide symphonic music at the highest possible degree of excellence through performance opportunities for regional musicians and educational programs for our community's youth.

First organized in 1971, the WSO, Inc. is a non-profit corporation, organized in the State of North Carolina, with 501(c)(3) tax-exempt status. WSO serves people of all socio-economic backgrounds and demographics that reflects the State of North Carolina.

The WSO has grown into a multi-faceted asset for Wilmington and the Cape Fear region, providing value in cultural arts and entertainment, music education and economic development. Pivotal accomplishments along the way in the Orchestra's own evolution have included establishing a higher standard of performance through mandatory auditions, providing stipends for the musicians, and expanding its education and community outreach programs. The Orchestra hires about sixty to seventy musicians per concert; the musicians are primarily local instrumentalists, faculty and gifted students.

The WSO represents southeastern North Carolina as a leader in music education and remains committed to youth outreach as an organizational priority. WSO's nine Music For Youth education and outreach programs broaden the reach and accessibility of symphonic music to children and their families. The Music For Youth programs impact over 2,500 students annually.

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