

PRESS RELEASE  
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Contact:  
Chris Morrison  
Executive Director, Reno Chamber Orchestra  
(775) 348-9413  
chris@renochamberorchestra.org

### **Reno Chamber Orchestra Announces Theodore Kuchar Will Step Down As Music Director After 2017-2018 Season**

**Reno, Nevada** -- The Reno Chamber Orchestra announced today that Theodore Kuchar will step down as the Orchestra's music director and as artistic director of the RCO's annual Nevada Chamber Music Festival at the end of the 2017-18 season. The Orchestra plans to award him the title of RCO music director laureate at the end of the season.

"Theodore Kuchar has led the Reno Chamber Orchestra to new heights, and we are very lucky to have had him for as long as we have," said RCO Board president Les Cohen. "The excitement of a Theodore Kuchar performance is palpable, and he has created a unique bond with the Orchestra and our audiences over his fifteen years with us. I have no doubt that the next phase in his career will be as rewarding as his tenure here has been. We all wish him the best in his next endeavors. His service to the RCO will be celebrated during the coming season."

"I am extremely proud of the enormous, and often unexpected, strides forward that the Reno Chamber Orchestra has taken during the 15 years in which I have served as the Music Director and Principal Conductor of this organization," Kuchar said. "The number of concerts presented annually has more than tripled and extended the horizons of the organization's activities. We have broken longstanding attendance records within the Reno community for various events specifically related to orchestral music. We have presented an extremely diverse and wide repertoire encompassing nearly four centuries, with works ranging from the first-half of the 17th century through to regional, North American and world premieres of major compositions of the present day. The guest artists engaged annually by the organization are largely distinguished personalities firmly recognized in the musical centers of the world. Most importantly, the Reno Chamber Orchestra is consistently performing at an extraordinary level."

Theodore Kuchar is the most recorded conductor of his generation, appearing on over 100 compact discs. He has served as artistic director and principal conductor of two of Europe's leading orchestras, the Janáček Philharmonic Orchestra and the National Symphony Orchestra of Ukraine, as well as of the Orquesta Sinfónica de Venezuela, Fresno Philharmonic, and Boulder Philharmonic. He was also founding artistic director of The Australian Festival of Chamber Music.

Kuchar was hired by the Reno Chamber Orchestra in 2003 as just the second music director in its history, following founding music director Vahe Khochayan's twenty-nine years in the position. During Kuchar's tenure with the RCO, the organization's budget tripled and its activities substantially increased, including the 2004 creation of the Nevada Chamber Music Festival, now one of the most important music festivals in the United States. Other significant projects included a complete cycle of Ludwig van Beethoven's five piano concertos in 2015 with world-

renowned pianist Robert Levin, and the 2008 world premiere of Chasing Light... by Pulitzer Prize-winning composer Joseph Schwantner, in which the RCO attracted national attention by serving as the lead orchestra in the Ford Made in America project, the largest orchestra commissioning consortium ever in the United States.

Under Kuchar's leadership, the Reno Chamber Orchestra and Nevada Chamber Music Festival have featured some of the world's most famous performers, including Leonard Nimoy, James Buswell, Edgar Meyer, Grammy Award winner Zuill Bailey, Peter Wiley of the renowned Guarneri Quartet and Beaux Arts Trio, and the concertmasters of three of the world's greatest orchestras -- Noah Bendix-Balgley of the Berlin Philharmonic, Martin Chalifour of the Los Angeles Philharmonic, and Josef Spacek of the Czech Philharmonic.

The Reno Chamber Orchestra will celebrate Kuchar's artistry and legacy in 2017-18 with performances that include guest artists like Michael Sachs, principal trumpet of the Cleveland Orchestra, and former Tokyo String Quartet member Clive Greensmith, along with a grand season-concluding performance featuring the University of Nevada, Reno Chamber Singers and Symphonic Choir.

The RCO will soon engage in a search process to find its next music director and the Nevada Chamber Music Festival's next artistic director.

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