



## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Media Contact:

Nick Dobreff, Communications and Creative Director

616.485.3913 (m) - 303.308.2477 (o)

[ndobreff@coloradosymphony.org](mailto:ndobreff@coloradosymphony.org)

### **COLORADO SYMPHONY TO AWARD 2023 MARGARET PHIPPS AWARD TO DUAIN WOLFE**

*Founder and longtime director will celebrate the Colorado Symphony Chorus' 40th Anniversary during the 2023/24 Colorado Symphony Season*

Apr. 7, 2023 – Denver, CO – The Colorado Symphony will award the 2023 Margaret Phipps Award to Duain Wolfe, Founder and Director of the Colorado Symphony Chorus. The award will be presented at the Symphony's 2023 Imagination Gala taking place at Mission Ballroom on Saturday, May 20. The prestigious award, established in 1993, recognizes outstanding contributions and service to the Colorado Symphony and the arts community.

Wolfe, a three-time GRAMMY® Award winner for Best Choral Performance, Best Classical Recording, and Best Opera Performance, founded the Colorado Symphony Chorus in 1984 and has led the ensemble for 39 seasons, over which time it has earned a reputation as one of the finest symphonic choruses in the United States. The Colorado Symphony Chorus and Wolfe will celebrate their 40th Anniversary during the Colorado Symphony's 2023/24 Season.

"I am humbled to be the recipient of this prestigious award," said Wolfe. "I have had the privilege of working with the Colorado Symphony and the Colorado Symphony Chorus for nearly four decades and I am very grateful to be part of this noble mission. This award truly honors the host of wonderful singers who have contributed their voices, their time, their energy, their love of great music, and most importantly, their *commitment* to the Colorado Symphony and Chorus, a commitment that has resulted in astonishing performances of our culture's greatest music. Thank you very much for this extraordinary honor."

Wolfe recently retired as Director of the Chicago Symphony Chorus after 28 years. He has collaborated with Daniel Barenboim, Pierre Boulez, Bernard Haitink, Riccardo Muti, and Sir George Solti on numerous recordings including Wagner's *Die Meistersinger*, which won the 1998 GRAMMY® Award for Best Opera Recording. Wolfe's extensive musical accomplishments have resulted in numerous awards, including the Governor's Award for Excellence in the Arts, an Honorary Doctor of Fine Arts from the University of Denver, the Bonfils Stanton Award in the Arts and Humanities, the Mayor's Award for Excellence in an Artistic Discipline, and the Michael Korn Award for the Development of the Professional Choral Art. Wolfe is Founder of the Colorado Children's Chorale, from which he retired in 1999 after 25 years. For 20 years, Wolfe also worked with the Central City Opera Festival as chorus director and conductor, founding and directing the company's young artist residence program, as well as its education and outreach programs. Wolfe's other accomplishments include directing and preparing choruses for Chicago's Ravinia Festival, the Bravo! Vail Festival, the Berkshire Choral Festival, the Aspen Music



Festival, and the Grand Teton Music Festival. He has worked with Pinchas Zuckerman and Alexander Shelly as Chorus Director for the Canadian National Arts Centre Orchestra for the past 20 years.

The Imagination Gala will be the organization's largest fundraising event of the year with funds raised supporting the operations and education programs of the Colorado Symphony, the largest and only full-time professional orchestra in Colorado.

For sponsorship opportunities or to purchase a table, visit <https://one.bidpal.net/cs2023/welcome> or contact Cecile Forsberg-Kerr at [cforsbergkerr@ColoradoSymphony.org](mailto:cforsbergkerr@ColoradoSymphony.org).

#### **EVENT INFORMATION:**

What: Colorado Symphony Imagination Gala

Date: Saturday, May 20, 2023

Time: 6:00 p.m.

Location: Mission Ballroom - 4242 Wynkoop St, Denver, CO 80216

For more information, visit: <https://one.bidpal.net/cs2023/welcome>

###

#### **CONTACT:**

For more information or to request interviews, please contact:

Nick Dobreff, Communications and Creative Director

[ndobreff@coloradosymphony.org](mailto:ndobreff@coloradosymphony.org) - 303.308.2477 (o)

For high-resolution, downloadable images of the Colorado Symphony, contact: [ndobreff@coloradosymphony.org](mailto:ndobreff@coloradosymphony.org)

Support for the 2022/23 Colorado Symphony Season is provided by: The Scientific & Cultural Facilities District (SCFD), Bonfils Stanton, Genesee Mountain Foundation, Liberty Global, and the Colorado Symphony Guild.

#### **TICKETS:**

Tickets to Colorado Symphony events are available online at [coloradosymphony.org/tickets](https://coloradosymphony.org/tickets), by phone at 303.623.7876, and in person at the Boettcher Concert Hall Box Office, Denver Performing Arts Complex, 1000 14th Street. The Box Office is open Monday - Friday, 10 a.m. - 5 p.m., Saturday, noon - 5 p.m., and two hours prior to each performance.

#### **ABOUT THE COLORADO SYMPHONY**

One of the leading orchestras in the United States, the Colorado Symphony Association is a not-for-profit 501 (c)(3) organization performing more than 150 concerts annually at Boettcher Concert Hall in downtown Denver and across Colorado. Led by Principal Conductor Peter Oundjian, the Colorado Symphony is home to eighty full-time musicians, representing more than a dozen nations, and regularly welcomes the most celebrated artists from the world of symphonic music and beyond. In the last year, the Colorado Symphony served nearly 233,000 people attending live performances at concert and non-



traditional venues throughout Colorado's Front Range. Recognized as an incubator of innovation, creativity, and excellence, the Colorado Symphony continually expands its reach through in-person and virtual education programs, outreach, and programming. The Colorado Symphony partners with the state's leading musical artists, cultural organizations, corporations, foundations, sports teams, and individuals to expose diverse audiences to the transformative power of music. To learn more, visit [coloradosymphony.org](http://coloradosymphony.org).