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Colorado MahlerFest Cancels MahlerFest XXXIII – “Visions and Visionaries”

Pictures available at: bit.ly/MF2020PressKit

Boulder, CO – The Colorado MahlerFest has announced the cancellation of this year’s festival, which was to have been the 33rd annual festival and was to have run from May 9-17, 2020, in venues across Boulder and Longmont amidst concern for audience safety and that of the festival musicians during the current coronavirus outbreak.

“Canceling this year’s festival was a particularly painful step,” says MahlerFest’s Artistic Director Kenneth Woods. “We had worked all year to put together what we all felt was the most dynamic and ambitious program the festival has ever delivered. MahlerFest, and the sense of fellowship and discovery it brings, has come to be one of the cornerstones of my professional life, and I shall miss all our musicians and our passionate and engaged audiences this year.”

The festival plans to regroup and focus on next year’s festival in May 2021, which will run May 16- 23, 2021. The festival plans a busy week of concerts and activities built around Mahler’s Symphony No. 3. In 2022, Colorado MahlerFest will present the program originally planned for 2020, including Mahler’s Second Symphony, Philip Sawyers’s *Hommage to Kandinsky*, and Act One of Wagner’s *Die Walküre*. Going forward after that, the festival plans to continue its cycle in order from the Fourth Symphony.

MahlerFest plans to present a selection of online content during what would have been the festival week this May.

Colorado MahlerFest is one of only two North American organizations, alongside the New York Philharmonic to receive the Gold Medal of the International Gustav Mahler Society. Renowned author Norman Lebrecht recently said of the festival that “The Colorado MahlerFest in and around the city of Boulder is one of the boldest musical initiatives of modern times... a byword among Mahler scholars and



followers for its uncluttered idealism, its uncommon altitude (5,430 feet high) and its internationally resonant scholarship and recordings.”

Funding for the Colorado MahlerFest comes from the Daniel W. Dietrich II Foundation, the Scientific & Cultural Facilities District, the Sosnow Foundation, and the Boulder Arts Commission.

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Colorado MahlerFest’s mission is to celebrate the legacy of composer Gustav Mahler through an annual festival featuring all of Mahler’s musical output as well as contextual cultural and educational events. The organization was founded in 1988 by Artistic Director Emeritus Robert Olson who, after studying in Vienna on a Fulbright scholarship, recognized the similarities the beautiful Colorado landscape and Mahler’s summertime composing locations. Notable achievements include a 2000 Colorado State Senate proclamation that the festival enriches the lives of the Colorado public and receiving the International Gustav Mahler Society of Vienna’s rare Gold Medal (the only American orchestra to receive this award other than Mahler’s own New York Philharmonic). Olson retired in 2015 and we succeeded by Kenneth Woods, an internationally active, American-born conductor, currently also the Artistic Director of the English Symphony Orchestra. During Woods’s tenure MahlerFest has shifted from almost entirely volunteer-based to a training orchestra model with Festival Artists inspiring students of all ages.

[MahlerFest.org](http://MahlerFest.org)