

Letter from the Board President

Dear Friends,

Remember that first day of school? That first day on a new job? Those first weeks in a new neighborhood? That mixture of excitement and anxiety, elation and angst? New experiences often bring a mixture of all of those feelings, and more.

The Philharmonic's 21st season promises to be its most exciting and unique yet, full of many "firsts," both for us and for you, our patrons.

We're welcoming some new members to our fine orchestra, and unveiling new pieces of music you may not have heard before. We're settling in to our "new" home here at the Eastern Regional Performing Arts Center, which we love. And, we're continuing this season with our "new" Sunday concerts—something we know you love!

This season also marks my first as president of the Philharmonic's board of directors. Like a new kid at school, I'm both thrilled and anxious about this new position. My case of nerves, however, surely pales in comparison to those of the three incredibly talented gentlemen you'll meet this season.

Over the past year, the Philharmonic has been searching for a suitable candidate to fill the role of conductor and music director. Filling our beloved Philip Travaline's place at the podium is no easy task. Thanks to the hard work and dedication of a small committee of volunteers, we were able to narrow a field of more than 70 applicants from all over the world to the three you'll have the pleasure of meeting this season. We are thrilled to have candidates of such caliber, and I know you'll be as impressed with each of them as we have been. Each conductor—Matthew Oberstein, Brian Norcross, and Reuben Blundell, will helm one of our subscription concerts and be evaluated by the board of directors, the orchestra and—here's another first—by you, our patrons. We'll ask each of you to help choose our next conductor and music director, who will take up the baton for our 2012-2013 season and take us on a journey that, likewise, will be both new and incredibly exciting.

I'm sure that Matthew, Brian and Reuben each will take the stage feeling very much like "the new kid," fraught with a heady mixture of exhilaration and uneasiness. After they've been on stage for a bit, however, I'm sure they'll learn two lessons that I already know by heart—that this group of talented and committed volunteers comprises the finest orchestra in the region, and that we have the greatest group of patrons—hands down—anywhere.

Thank you so much for joining us for this season full of "firsts." Whether this is your own "first" experience with classical music, or you're a seasoned veteran, I promise that you'll love the journey. And, don't forget to keep in touch along the way--I'd love to hear from you!

All the best,

Tricia

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