



Board Contact:

Lucia Cleveland, President
(805) 544-5213

Festival Mozaic Contact:

Curtis Pendleton
(805) 781-3009
curtis@FestivalMozaic.com

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Festival Mozaic Announces Executive Leadership Transition

SAN LUIS OBISPO, CA, MAY 10, 2010 - Festival Mozaic's long-term executive director, Curtis Pendleton, will be leaving her position with the organization at the end of the year. Pendleton, who was hired as the result of a national search in 2000, will be relocating with her family to Vancouver, Canada. Her husband and daughter are Canadian citizens and family obligations are precipitating the family's move. Pendleton will continue through this summer's Festival in July and through the fall, to assist the Board of Directors in the search for and transition to her successor.

Pendleton guided the organization during the transition from the Festival's founding music director to the current music director, Scott Yoo, now in his sixth season. She also steered the organization through the Board's decision to re-brand the festival from its original moniker (the San Luis Obispo Mozart Festival) to its current name, a change that has increased participation at the Festival over the last two seasons with sold-out concerts and events.

"I will miss the Festival and the community," Pendleton says. "It is an exceptional and special place to make music, and it has been an honor to serve this venerable cultural institution through several exciting transitions." A trained classical musician with degrees from McGill University in Montreal and the Juilliard School, Pendleton will also be stepping down as a faculty member of the Music Department at California Polytechnic University.

Celebrating its 40th Anniversary season this summer, **Festival Mozaic** has a distinguished history of presenting many important artists in the early stages in their careers, including pianists Richard Goode and Jeffrey Kahane, violinist Hilary Hahn, the Kronos Quartet, Bela Fleck and Edgar Meyer, and conductors Neville Mariner and Kent Nagano, who grew up in the area. The Festival was also the site for one of the first public performances of Dmitri and Maxim Shostakovich shortly after their famous defection from the Soviet Union in 1981, in a concert joined by fellow Russian, Mstislav Rostropovich. The Festival draws orchestra and chamber musicians from the Los Angeles Philharmonic, the Cleveland Orchestra, the Metropolitan Opera Orchestra, the Baltimore Symphony, the Houston Symphony, the Los Angeles Opera Orchestra, among many other of the nation's finest orchestras and ensembles.

The Board of Directors has appointed a task force comprised of Festival Board members and community members to conduct a national search to locate the organization's next

executive leadership. *Field+ Lorey* ([www. encoreconsult.com](http://www.encoreconsult.com)), an arts consulting group whose principals recently guided an executive search for Music@Menlo, one of the nation's premier chamber music festivals, has been retained to assist the Board's efforts in the search and transition.

Lucia Vanderheyden Cleveland, current president of the Festival's Board of Directors, says, "Thanks to Curtis's leadership and management, we have a very stable and successful organization – artistically, financially and organizationally. Our ticket sales are currently tracking 30% over last year, we are on track to make our contribution goals, and there is great excitement building around our 40th anniversary season this year. We are fortunate to have had Curtis's leadership over the last 10 years, and are excited for this opportunity to build on the Festival's many successes when we welcome our next executive director to the position."

About Festival Mozaic

Festival Mozaic (founded in 1971 as the San Luis Obispo Mozart Festival) is a celebration of five centuries of music that takes place year-round in varied venues across San Luis Obispo County. The Festival presents an orchestra gathered from professionals across the world, chamber music, international guest artists and ensembles, and concerts of classical 'crossover' artists. The Festival is a not-for-profit organization supported by AT&T Foundation, Rabobank, R.E. Wacker Associates, the City and County of San Luis Obispo, and many generous music and art lovers across San Luis Obispo County and beyond. For more information and electronic press kits, please visit www.FestivalMozaic.com.