



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Madison Symphony Orchestra Principal Organist and Curator of the Overture Concert Organ, Samuel Hutchison, will Retire in August 2017

MADISON, WI – The Madison Symphony Orchestra (MSO) announced today that Principal Organist and Curator of the Overture Concert Organ, Samuel Hutchison, will retire from his current position after 16 years, effective August 30, 2017.

Hutchison is the first organist to hold the Wayne Curtis & Maybell Slavens Hall and Francis Vincent & Lettie von Kalweit Dunnebacke Curatorship, having been involved since the beginning of the project to acquire a world-class pipe organ for Overture Hall. He was a member of the Symphony's Organ Committee that in 2001 selected Orgelbau Klais of Bonn, Germany to make the magnificent Overture Concert Organ, much of it to Hutchison's specifications. Since then he has built one of the most successful concert organ programs in the United States, comprising two annual recital series, a hymn- and carol-sing series, educational programs and the Friends of the Overture Concert Organ, a vibrant, 500-member support organization which raises funds for the program and champions the cause of organ music in performance.

Besides presenting the world's leading organists, Hutchison has invited top-tier choirs of international reputation, including Westminster Cathedral Choir and Westminster Abbey Choir of London, the Los Angeles Master Chorale with composer Morten Lauridsen and St. Thomas Choir of New York City, among others.

"Sam is the persona of the instrument," said Richard Mackie, Executive Director of the Madison Symphony Orchestra. "His artistry, his vast knowledge of organ repertoire, his astute programming sensibility and his particularly engaging personality on-stage quickly established the success of the program. And his visionary leadership of the planning and implementation of the whole project has been crucial."

Elaine Mischler, President of the Board of the Madison Symphony Orchestra said, "The Board congratulates Samuel Hutchison on his spectacular tenure. Sam has built an organ program that is envied around the world and a vibrant Friends of the Overture Concert Organ group, inspired by his artistic, visionary and spiritual leadership."

"It has been the highest privilege of my career to serve as Principal Organist and Curator for the Overture Concert Organ," said Hutchison. "The inspiration of this experience, and of the great artists who have played the Klais organ during my tenure, will continue to provide uplifting memories for a lifetime."

Hutchison will remain active in an advisory role during the transition to his successor, recruitment of whom will begin immediately.



ABOUT THE MADISON SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

The Madison Symphony Orchestra celebrates its 92nd season in 2017–2018 and its 24th season under the leadership of Music Director John DeMain. The MSO has grown to be one of America's leading regional orchestras, providing Madison and south central Wisconsin with cultural and educational opportunities to interact with great masterworks and top-tier guest artists from around the world. Find more information at madisonsymphony.org

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