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For Immediate Release

LOUIS LANGRÉE TO LEAD CINCINNATI SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA THROUGH 2019-2020 SEASON

Three-year contract extension reflects successes of new experiments and superlative musical leadership

CINCINNATI – The **Cincinnati Symphony Orchestra (CSO)** announced today an agreement with current **Music Director Louis Langrée** that extends the conductor's contract with the ensemble starting in the 2017-2018 season. Mr. Langrée, who took up leadership of the CSO in September 2013, will now lead the Orchestra through the 2019-2020 season, the CSO's 125th anniversary season.



“I am so delighted to continue my relationship with the CSO as Music Director,” said **Mr. Langrée**. “With any good artistic partnership, it takes time to forge the kind of deep bonds that result in truly extraordinary music-making. I feel as if I have definitely reached a level of connection with the musicians of the CSO that allows us to take our relationship to the next level. We’ve enjoyed several outstanding experiments together, and I’m looking forward to many more.”

The world-class CSO has seen unparalleled successes under Mr. Langrée's leadership, including the inauguration of the Orchestra's partnership with Cincinnati's premier new music festival, MusicNOW, the popular community engagement program *One City, One Symphony* and the triumphant LUMENOCITY® concert and image mapping event, which drew tens of thousands to Washington Park in the summers of 2013 and 2014. Other highlights of his tenure thus far include the introduction of new soloists making their CSO debuts, a wealth of repertoire ranging from Mozart to Jonny Greenwood, and an incredibly warm reception by Cincinnati audiences. His inaugural concert weekend in November 2013 included a collaboration with one of the most renowned and influential voices of a generation, the late Dr. Maya Angelou, who narrated Copland's *Lincoln Portrait* in a weekend that attracted a diverse audience of over 9,200.

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The concert received rave critical reviews, including from the *New York Times*: “Mr. Langrée’s brisk, tight interpretation was reminiscent of many of his performances of the Classical repertory at Mostly Mozart: polished and impressively energetic if somehow weightless, with movements that propelled forward without accumulating intensity.” The performance of *Lincoln Portrait* was recorded for *Hallowed Ground*, Mr. Langrée’s first commercial recording with the CSO that was released in September 2014. Also on the recording were world premiere works by Nico Muhly and David Lang, commissioned for the 2014 MusicNOW Festival.



Highlights of the 2014-2015 season have included a sold-out season opening gala concert with Lang Lang, the world premiere of André Previn’s Double Concerto, as well as the continuation of *One City, One Symphony* initiative, with the addition of “Louis’ Listening Party,” a special concert program during which Mr. Langrée gave in-depth background and insights into Mahler’s First Symphony during a live performance. The March 13-14 MusicNOW Festival program will again include two world premieres, as well as a groundbreaking performance with the CSO alongside the indie rock band The National. The season will conclude with performances featuring soloists Joshua Bell, Yo-Yo Ma and Martin Grubinger.

Highlights of the CSO’s 2015-2016 season include an invitation to perform at Lincoln Center’s prestigious *Great Performers* series in January 2016, the beginning of a two-year Brahms Festival, the return of MusicNOW, a *One City, One Symphony* program focused on the theme of freedom and dedicated to the legacy of Dr. Maya Angelou, as well as numerous guest artist debuts and celebrated returns.

“Louis has captivated Cincinnati through electrifying concerts and bold initiatives while at the same time reinforcing a welcoming and vibrant culture around the Orchestra,” said **CSO President Trey Devey**. “Being determined for greatness is one of the CSO’s core values and Louis embodies this with his remarkable leadership and unparalleled artistry. Extending his current contract three additional years advances our vision to engage audiences and community in extraordinary ways in the seasons ahead.”

“It’s been an honor to be part of the CSO family during Louis’ artistic leadership,” said **CSO Board Chair Jim Schwab**. “His warm demeanor and down-to-earth rapport with audiences have been an invaluable contribution not only to the CSO, but for the entire Cincinnati community. I’m truly looking forward to what the next few years bring.”

In addition to his position in Cincinnati, Mr. Langrée is also Music Director of the Mostly Mozart Festival at Lincoln Center and Chief Conductor of the Camerata Salzburg, with whom he will tour South America later this month. He is also a regular guest conductor with prestigious ensembles around the world, including the Orchestre de Paris, Berliner Philharmoniker, the Wiener Staatsoper and the Metropolitan Opera.



Louis Langrée

The French conductor Louis Langrée is Music Director of the Cincinnati Symphony Orchestra, Chief Conductor of the Camerata Salzburg and Music Director of the Mostly Mozart Festival at Lincoln Center in New York. During his second season with the Cincinnati Symphony Orchestra he conducted a gala concert with Lang Lang and led the orchestra in a world premiere performance by André Previn. Upcoming performances with the CSO include world premieres by Caroline Shaw and Daniel Bjarnason, as well as a one-night-only performance with Yo-Yo Ma. His collaboration with the Camerata Salzburg will include concerts in Cologne, Salzburg, Vienna and on tour to South

America. During the 2014/15 season Louis has also returned to the Orchestre de Paris and continues his regular appearances with the Wiener Staatsoper (*Eugene Onegin*) and the Metropolitan Opera in New York (*Carmen*; of which the Saturday, March 7 performance will be broadcast live on radio siriusxm.com/metropolitanopera).

Performances in the 2013/14 season included *Pelléas et Mélisande* at the Opéra Comique in Paris and debuts at the Bayerische Staatsoper in Munich (*Don Giovanni*) and with the Wiener Symphoniker at the Konzerthaus in Vienna. Other recent debuts have included the Berliner Philharmoniker, Leipzig Gewandhaus and NHK Symphony in Tokyo, as well as re-invitations to the Budapest Festival and Netherlands Philharmonic Orchestras.

Louis Langrée has conducted the Wiener Philharmoniker in concert in both Vienna and Salzburg. He has worked with many other orchestras in North America, Europe and further afield, including the London Philharmonic, Orchestre de la Suisse Romande, Santa Cecilia in Rome, Sao Paulo and Tokyo Philharmonic. He also regularly conducts chamber orchestras including the Deutsche Kammerphilharmonie Bremen and Academy of St Martin in the Fields and period instrument ensembles: the Freiburger Barockorchester, Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment and Le Concert d'Astrée. Festival appearances have included Wiener Festwochen, Salzburg Mozartwoche, BBC Proms, Glyndebourne Festival Opera and the Festival d'Aix-en-Provence. He has held positions as Music Director of the Orchestre de Picardie (1993-98) and Orchestre Philharmonique Royal de Liège (2001-06).

Louis Langrée was Music Director of Opéra National de Lyon (1998-2000) and Glyndebourne Touring Opera (1998-2003). He has also conducted at La Scala, the Royal Opera House Covent Garden, Opéra-Bastille and Théâtre des Champs-Élysées in Paris, Lyric Opera of Chicago, Dresden Staatsoper, Grand Théâtre in Geneva and the Netherlands Opera in Amsterdam.

This season Louis Langrée's first commercial recording with the Cincinnati Symphony Orchestra was released, featuring Copland's *Lincoln Portrait* (narrated by Dr Maya Angelou) and world premieres by Nico Muhly and David Lang. Louis Langrée's recordings have received several awards from *Gramophone* and *Midem Classical*. *La Traviata*, recorded at the Aix-en-Provence Festival with the London Symphony Orchestra for Virgin Classics, was recently released on DVD and awarded a Diapason D'Or. Louis Langrée was appointed Chevalier des Arts et des Lettres in 2006 and Chevalier de la Légion d'Honneur in 2014.

Cincinnati Symphony Orchestra

The Cincinnati Symphony Orchestra is a dynamic ensemble of some of the world's finest musicians. The fifth oldest symphony orchestra in the U.S. and the oldest orchestra in Ohio, the CSO has played a leading role in the cultural life of Greater Cincinnati and the Midwest since its founding in 1895.



Louis Langrée began his tenure as the CSO's 13th Music Director in the 2013–2014 season with a celebrated program *The New York Times* said “deftly combined nods to the orchestra's history, the city's musical life and new music.” Over the Orchestra's 119-year history, it has also been led by Leopold Stokowski, Eugène Ysaÿe, Fritz Reiner, Eugene Goossens, Max Rudolf, Thomas Schippers, Jesús López-Cobos, and Paavo Järvi, among others.

The CSO has built a reputation as one of the world's foremost orchestras, determined for greatness and heralded as a place of experimentation. This was on full display during the inaugural LUMENOCITY, a spectacular concert of live music combined with stunning images projected on the façade of Music Hall. This event in August of 2013 garnered international attention and drew 35,000 people over two nights. In August 2014, the audience grew to over 40,000, and has become a highlight of summer in Cincinnati.

A champion of new music, the Orchestra has given American premieres of works by such composers as Debussy, Ravel and Bartók and has commissioned works that have since become mainstays of the classical repertoire, including Copland's *Fanfare for the Common Man*. The CSO was the first orchestra to be broadcast to a national radio audience (1921) and the third to record (1917). The Orchestra continues to commission new works and to program an impressive array of music. Most recently, the CSO performed the world premieres of Nico Muhly's *Pleasure Ground* and David Lang's *mountain* as part of the groundbreaking collaboration with the MusicNOW Festival, Cincinnati's premier new music festival, as well as the world premiere of André Previn's Double Concerto in November 2014.

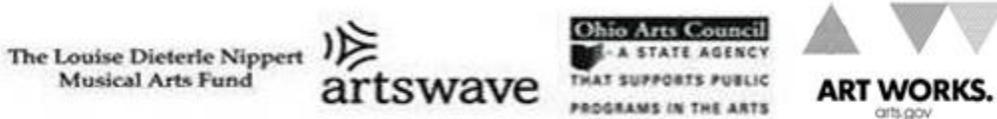
The Cincinnati Symphony and Pops Orchestra is Cincinnati's ambassador with over 10 million recordings sold, many of which have received Grammy awards and nominations. In January of 2010, the CSO launched its own record label, now known as Fanfare Cincinnati, which currently boasts six releases. In March of 2012, the CSO performed the world premiere of Philip Glass' Cello Concerto No. 2, *Nagoyqatsi*, which was recorded and released in 2013 on the Orange Mountain Music label.

The CSO was the first American orchestra to make a world tour sponsored by the U.S. Department of State and continues to tour domestically and internationally, most recently to Europe in 2008 and to Japan in 2009, including two concerts at Tokyo's Suntory Hall and the CSO's first-ever nationally televised concert in Japan. The CSO has performed at New York's Carnegie Hall 48 times since its debut there in 1917, most recently to rave reviews in May of this year.

The Orchestra also performs as the Cincinnati Pops under the direction of John Morris Russell, and the CSO is the official orchestra for the Cincinnati May Festival, Cincinnati Opera, Cincinnati Ballet and the World Piano Competition.

The CSO is Cincinnati's own and committed to enhancing and expanding music education for the children of Greater Cincinnati and works to bring music education, in its many different forms, to as broad a public as possible. Education and outreach programs currently serve more than 80,000 individuals annually.

The Cincinnati Symphony Orchestra gratefully acknowledges support from the following:



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