



PRESS RELEASE - FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Chagrin Arts celebrates the arts and honors Steve Eva at annual “Fire up!” Performing Arts Bash on May 16

CHAGRIN FALLS, OHIO – In addition to celebrating the performing arts, Chagrin Arts will honor Steve Eva of the Chagrin Falls Studio Orchestra, at its annual *Fire Up! Performing Arts Bash* on Wednesday, May 16. The event begins at 6:30 PM at Sapphire Creek Winery & Gardens, 16965 Park Circle Dr., Chagrin Falls, Ohio, and will include appetizes, dessert, a cash bar including Sapphire Creek wine and a handcrafted Chagrin Arts cocktail, a variety of live entertainment, a special tribute to the honoree, and a special guest appearance by distinguished visual artist Lainard Bush.

At the event, Steve Eva will be presented with the “Joan Brown Campbell Award for Arts and Culture.” Established in 2015 by Chagrin Arts, this annual award honors an individual or organization in recognition of outstanding leadership in promoting arts and culture. Past recipients have included Rev. Dr. Joan Brown Campbell, who played an instrumental role in establishing Chagrin Arts’ summer lecture series *Chautauqua-in-Chagrin™*, community leader Jean Hood, and the *Chagrin Valley Times*.

Steve's passion for promoting the concert experience, his willingness to collaborate with various community organizations, and his outstanding leadership truly exemplifies what this award embodies and has brought countless people the joy of experiencing the performing arts.

In addition, Chagrin Arts will announce this year’s recipients of the Chagrin Valley Times Performing Arts Scholarship and the Stephen G. Thomas Performing Arts Scholarship. Established in 2017, these two \$500 scholarship awards are presented annually to high school seniors whose activities have demonstrated a passion for the performing arts. Chagrin Arts strives to bring the power of the arts to as many as possible and the deserving recipients will exemplify how encompassing that power is, when combined with their own passion for the arts. More information on the scholarships can be found at ChagrinArts.org/performing-arts-scholarship.

The annual *Fire Up! Performing Arts Bash* ensures continued financial support for Chagrin Arts, a community nonprofit whose mission is to enrich life by presenting inspiring performances and stimulating lectures. Tickets to the event are \$100 per person and are available at ChagrinArts.org or by calling (440) 247-9700. In addition, those interested in expressing their thanks and well wishes for Steve Eva may do so by purchasing an ad in the *Fire Up!* program book. Contact Lindsey Walsh at lwalsh@chagrinarts.org for details.

ABOUT STEVE EVA

Steve Eva is a native Clevelander and graduate of Shaker Heights High School. Mr. Eva, an accomplished trumpet player in his youth, attended The National Music Camp at Interlochen where he sustained nerve damage to his lip from overplaying. His attention quickly turned to his true love, conducting, and he became the only student conductor ever at Shaker Heights High School where he founded the Jazz Ensemble. Mr. Eva graduated from Grove City College with degrees in Economics and Philosophy where he organized and directed the first Jazz Ensemble.

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For over 30 years, Mr. Eva has been the Musical Director and driving force of the Hermit Club Symphony Orchestra (Cleveland's premier performing arts club). Through the Hermit Club Orchestra, he has produced and directed dozens of shows and conducted numerous large-scale symphonic works, concertos, chamber music, musical theater, choral and pops concerts.

In 2006, Steve Eva, who lives in Auburn, reached out to the arts community in Chagrin Falls through Jean Hood (recipient of the 2016 Joan Brown Campbell Award for Arts and Culture) and Dwight Milko with the idea of creating an Orchestra. He recounts, "I was immediately received with open arms by the entire arts community in the Valley".

Steve was quickly introduced to Tom Neff who offered up the Chagrin Valley Little Theater (CVLT) as the performing venue where the Chagrin Falls Studio Orchestra now calls home. The Studio Orchestra has gone on to become a key partner in the Arts Community of Chagrin falls performing 4 times a year at the Theater, and has also teamed up with the Federated Church Choirs, performed concerts in Riverside Park for both Chagrin Arts and for the Chagrin Jaycees, has joined hands with Bob and Jo Royer to honor the First Responders, and worked with Marcia Snavelly at the Chagrin Performing Arts Academy. Mr. Eva and the Studio Orchestra have also collaborated with Mary Ann Ponce of the Documentary Film Festival, and Amanda Powell, the then director of the Federated Church choirs, to perform the Dies Irae of the Verdi Requiem following the screening of the film "Defiant Requiem" honoring the Jews of Terezin. Mr. Eva describes this event as the high point of his musical career.

Steve Eva has joined forces with CVLT Don Edelman to produce six successful musical shows featuring the full orchestra on stage including *Guys and Dolls*, *Man of LaMancha*, *From Broadway with Love* and *Spotlight on Broadway*, *South Pacific* and *Right Down Broadway*. Together with CVLT, Steve has established the Chagrin Christmas Wassail concert tradition now in its 12th season. Mr. Eva has also produced a series of Valentine's shows that have featured world class concert pianists including Sandra Shapiro, Anzehlika Fuks, Jiayan Sun, Dmitri Levkovich and Agnė Radzevičiūtė. In addition, he joined forces with Cleveland Opera Theater founder Andrea Anelli to produce the first ever concert version of the musical "Camelot" along with several Gilbert and Sullivan Operettas.

Passionate about promoting the concert experience and live performing arts, Mr. Eva joined forces with the rock band, Time Traveller, to produce a show of music of the Moody Blues with rock band and full symphony orchestra performing all over Northeast Ohio. He also produced and recorded the music for the Dancing Wheels production of "Daring to be Dumbo." The Chagrin Falls Studio Orchestra now performs up to 22 shows in a single season. In April, Steve Eva and the Chagrin Falls Studio Orchestra performs the Broadway Musical *The Hunchback of Notre Dame* with the Happy Ending Musical Players at First Baptist Church in Shaker Heights.

Mr. Eva is equally passionate about his role as a husband and father. He is married to Marilyn Eva, who for the past 25 years has been the assistant to the Chairman of the Board of Automated Packaging. Steve is the proud father of five grown children and four grandchildren. His talented children include Jake Eva, an expert in the application of 3D printing technology used for medical devices, Andrew Eva, an expert in computer "cloud storage" technology, Charles Eva who works in civil and structural engineering, Meredith Eva Wenrich, an accomplished athlete who lives in Chiang Mai, Thailand with her 2 children, and John Eva, who has overcome autism to become an over the road big rig trucker.

Mr. Eva actually still has a day job as well. He owns EVCO Industrial that specializes in the design, fabrication and installation of high production industrial finishing systems nationwide.

For more information about the Chagrin Falls Studio Orchestra, please visit ChagrinFallsStudioOrchestra.org

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ABOUT CHAGRIN ARTS

Chagrin Arts is a community 501(c)(3) organization whose goal is to enrich life through the presentation of inspiring performances and stimulating conversations. The organization's most visible programs are its *Chautauqua-in-Chagrin™* series and the *Performing Arts Series*. For more information about Chagrin Arts, please visit ChagrinArts.org

TO OBTAIN ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

For more information about Chagrin Arts, Steve Eva, or to schedule an interview, call Chagrin Arts at (440) 247-9700.

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ATTACHED IMAGES

- 1) SteveEva_Photo