

**PRESS RELEASE - FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**Primary Contact:** Lindsey Walsh, Director of Marketing, [lwalsh@chagrinarts.org](mailto:lwalsh@chagrinarts.org)  
Karen Lazar, Executive Director, [klazar@chagrinarts.org](mailto:klazar@chagrinarts.org)  
Chagrin Arts Office 440.247.9700

**Chagrin Arts names Chagrin Falls Studio Orchestra Director, Steve Eva, as the recipient of the 2018 Joan Brown Campbell Award for Arts and Culture**

CHAGRIN FALLS, OHIO – Chagrin Arts has named Steve Eva, Director of the Chagrin Falls Studio Orchestra, as the recipient of the 2018 "Joan Brown Campbell Award for Arts and Culture." Established in 2015, this annual award honors an individual or organization in recognition of outstanding leadership in promoting arts and culture. 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.

One of Steve's most noted accomplishments was in 2006 when his passion led him to reach out to the arts community in Chagrin Falls with the idea of creating an Orchestra. Welcomed with open arms and community support, The Studio Orchestra has since gone on to become a key partner in the arts community of Chagrin Falls and performs up to 22 shows in a single season.

"It is a great honor to accept this award," said Steve Eva. "It would not have been possible without the brilliant musicians of the Chagrin Studio Orchestra and all those who support my efforts. Thank you all."

The award will be presented to Steve Eva at Chagrin Arts' annual Fire Up! Performing Arts Bash on Wednesday, May 16 at Sapphire Creek Winery & Gardens in Chagrin Falls. The physical representation of the award will go beyond a traditional plaque or certificate and be uniquely designed to truly represent the honoree. More details on the event will be announced soon.

**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.

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".

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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 Maryann 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 produced 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 Studio Orchestra now performs up to 22 shows in a single season. Coming up this April, Steve Eva and the Chagrin Studio Orchestra will be performing 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 Studio Orchestra, please visit [ChagrinFallsStudioOrchestra.org](http://ChagrinFallsStudioOrchestra.org)

#### **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](http://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