

PRESS RELEASE - FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Chagrin Arts Names Karen Prasser as New Executive Director

CHAGRIN FALLS, OH (Oct. 30, 2018) - Chagrin Arts has named **Karen Prasser** as the organization's new Executive Director, effective January 1, 2019. Prasser will replace [Karen Lazar](#) who is retiring from the position she has held for five years.

Prasser comes to Chagrin Arts with more than 35 years of performing and cultural arts experience, including the Dallas and Fort Worth Opera Companies, Wheeling (West Virginia) Symphony, Great Lakes Theater Festival, the Cleveland Ballet, and the Cleveland Children's Museum.

Most recently, Prasser served for four years as the music director for the Summit Choral Society and continues to serve as the music director for Our Redeemer Lutheran Church in Solon and a staff accompanist at Kent State University - Hugh A. Glauser School of Music. Prasser also served for nine years as the executive director of the Solon Center for the Arts, where she created the Solon Philharmonic Orchestra and developed the Signature Opera and Musical Theater Series, both through special grants from Cuyahoga Arts & Culture.

"Karen is an accomplished professional musician in her own right and her skill set and proven experience with advancing the performing and cultural arts scene in Northeast Ohio are unique," said Steve Thomas, president of the Chagrin Arts Board of Directors. "Chagrin Arts has been blessed with dedicated executive directors over its 11-year existence. Karen will build on their past successes to sustain our mission of enriching life through inspiring performances and stimulating conversations. We look forward to welcoming her in our community."

Prasser was chosen by the Executive Committee on the recommendation of a Search Committee that evaluated more than 20 applicants. As Executive Director, Prasser will continue to promote the entire Chagrin Valley as a destination for quality arts and cultural experience.

"I am honored and very excited to become a part of Chagrin Arts, an organization that has a proven track record of excellence in a wide variety of the arts and stimulating conversation in Northeast Ohio," said Prasser. "Whenever an established and respected organization brings on a new Executive Director, it's an opportunity to study and understand how we serve our community in the best and most impactful way possible. I truly look forward to working closely with the Board of Directors and the Chagrin Arts constituents to bring the organization to a higher 'high', collaborating with my colleagues in the Village and, together, representing Chagrin Falls as a vibrant and visible arts community."

For more information about Chagrin Arts or Karen Prasser, call (440) 247-9700 or visit ChagrinArts.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.