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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ERIE PHILHARMONIC ANNOUNCES NEW EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Erie (July 27, 2015) – The Erie Philharmonic has announced Steve Weiser as its next Executive Director effective August 10, 2015. Weiser has been the General Manager of Gannon University’s Erie Chamber Orchestra for the past three years.

“I’m honored and excited to accept this new position with the Erie Philharmonic,” Weiser said. “The orchestra has been a source of pride for the Erie region for over 100 years, and I am greatly looking forward to everything that we can accomplish as we embark on this new chapter together.”

Weiser is originally from Reading, Pennsylvania. He has a Bachelor’s and Master’s degree from Temple University where he studied percussion performance. His accomplishments at the Chamber Orchestra included expanded and enhanced creative programming resulting in a significant increase in audience attendance, the development of educational activities that reach more than 10,000 students each year, and the production of a brand new recording of silent film music released in 2014.

The Erie Philharmonic’s current Executive Director, Jeffrey D. Collier, accepted the Chief Executive Officer position with Orchestra Iowa in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, and will be leaving the organization effective August 6. Collier joined the Philharmonic in 2013 at the start of its 100th Anniversary season. His tenure was marked by the highest ticket revenue in the organization’s history, expanded programming, and new initiatives that extend the work of the Philharmonic more deeply into the community through partnerships with organizations like The Regional Cancer Center, LifeWorks Erie, and Diehl Elementary of Erie’s Public Schools.

Daniel Meyer, Conductor and Music Director, commented, “I am sorry to see Jeff go. He was a tremendous asset to the Philharmonic and very quickly established a positive and collaborative relationship with the board, staff, musicians, donors, and the Erie community. I personally enjoyed working with Jeff as he always had friendly, caring, and serious manner. He did a great job of insuring that the Philharmonic's reputation remained strong and respected among many corners of the community. I wish him every success as he takes on his new role in Cedar Rapids and expect to hear nothing but great things from him as he takes this next step in his career.”

Meyer went on to say, "I am very happy to welcome Steve Weiser to the Philharmonic team. He has more than proven himself with the way he has grown the Erie Chamber Orchestra and expanded their community activities. With his special inside knowledge of the symphony world and his talents as a percussionist, I am confident that I will have a strong musical ally in Steve. He has made a big impression on the Erie Philharmonic family already, and I very much look forward to ushering in the next successful era of the Erie Philharmonic together with Steve."

Dan Zimmerman, Board President adds, "We are thankful for Jeff's contributions and dedication to the Philharmonic and wish him the absolute best in his future endeavors. As we look forward, we know Steve will be a great addition to the Philharmonic family. Steve's experience as both a professional musician and executive leadership provide him a unique perspective to lead the Philharmonic. We were fortunate to have such a strong candidate right here in Erie."

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