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Sarasota Concert Association Appoints Seven Members to Its Inaugural Advisory Council

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(Sarasota, Florida) Joy McIntyre, president of the Sarasota Concert Association's board of directors, announced today that the organization has appointed the following seven individuals to its inaugural Advisory Council: Edward Alley, David Cerone, Samuel Dixon, Russell Gant, Ann Hobson Pilot, Frank Solomon, and Joseph Volpe.

“As Advisory Council members, these distinguished individuals bring a wealth of perspectives, insights and expertise,” says McIntyre. “Their long involvement with the music industry richly demonstrates their commitment to the arts as an essential part of the human experience. Each will be instrumental in offering meaningful guidance as we move into our 75th season. The Sarasota Concert Association board looks forward to a productive and exciting collaboration.” The organization is celebrating its 75th anniversary in 2020 with a lineup of world-renowned classical artists and ensembles. *For more information, visit www.scasarasota.org.*

Sarasota Concert Association's Advisory Council members are:

- **Edward Alley** became conductor of the legendary 7th US Army Symphony at the age of 22, conducting over 100 concerts throughout western Europe. As principal conductor and manager of the touring Goldovsky Opera Theater, he conducted over 800 performances of opera throughout the United States and Canada. Mr. Alley also served as executive director of the Martha Baird Rockefeller Fund for Music; manager of the New York Philharmonic; associate director of the Opera Center at the Juilliard School; director of the Exxon/Arts Endowment Conductor's Program; and was a judge for numerous vocal competitions including the MET Opera auditions. He currently serves as the producer/host for SILL's Music Mondays: "Musical Conversations with Great Performers."
- Violinist **David Cerone** served as president of the Cleveland Institute of Music from 1985 to 2008, and was co-founder of the ENCORE School for Strings, where he was co-director and faculty member. He has also held professorships at Oberlin and the Curtis Institute of Music. Mr. Cerone has served as a juror for many prominent international competitions and presents master classes around the world. An active chamber musician, he toured extensively with the Canterbury Trio and was director and faculty member of the Meadowmount School of Music for 19 summers. He was a member of SCA's board of directors from 2013 to 2019 and also the chair of its artist selection committee.

- **Samuel C Dixon**, a trained pianist, is the executive and artistic director of Spivey Hall in Atlanta. He joined Spivey Hall in 2004 after 20 years of managing artists, programs and festivals, initially for the Minnesota Orchestra, Atlanta Symphony, Saint Louis Symphony and the six orchestras of the Australian Broadcasting Corporation.
- When he joined WUSF-FM 89.7 in 1983, **Russell Gant** was studying music at the University of South Florida. He started at the station as a part-time production assistant and became a full-time staff member in 1987. Today, Mr. Gant is WUSF's morning classical show host, and also its classical music director.
- **Ann Hobson Pilot** was the Boston Symphony Orchestra's legendary principal harpist for 40 years before she retired to Osprey. She has enjoyed an extensive solo career, performing with many American orchestras as soloist, as well as with orchestras in Europe, Haiti, New Zealand, and South Africa. Ms. Hobson Pilot has recorded several CDs, and has received numerous awards, including an honorary doctorate from Tufts University, for both her musicianship and her teaching. She is currently a member of the faculty of the Boston University Tanglewood Institute.
- **Frank Salomon** has guided the Marlboro Music national touring program since its inception in 1965. In addition to his position at Marlboro, Mr. Salomon has led the New School Concerts since 1960 and founded the New York String Orchestra Seminar at Carnegie Hall in 1969. He is the manager of Peoples' Symphony Concerts; and founder and president of

Frank Salomon Associates artist management firm. Mr. Salomon has served as co-chair of three music panels for the National Endowment for the Arts; as a board member of the Alexander Schneider and Arwood Foundations; and as an advisory committee member of Chamber Music America and the Avery Fisher Prize. He was co-recipient, with Tony Checchia, of a lifetime achievement award from Chamber Music America and he received the Patrick Hayes Award from the International Society of Performing Arts Administrators.

- **Joseph Volpe**, the former general manager of The Metropolitan Opera and theater and management consultant, now serves as the executive director of The Sarasota Ballet. His 2006 memoir, *The Toughest Show on Earth: My Rise and Reign at the Metropolitan Opera*, published by Knopf, describes his 42 years at the Met. The memoir also includes an overview of the history of the Metropolitan Opera, beginning with its origins in 1880.

About the Sarasota Concert Association

The Sarasota Concert Association (SCA) is a nonprofit organization that fosters greater appreciation for world-class classical music by offering the community two engaging programs from December to April. The Great Performers Series, in its 75th season, brings world-renowned orchestras and chamber groups to the Van Wezel Performing Arts Hall and the Riverview Performing Arts Center. The Music Matinee Series features outstanding regional artists in free community concerts at Beatrice Friedman Symphony Center and other venues. For more information about SCA, visit www.scasarasota.org.

Photos courtesy of the artists.