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## NEWS RELEASE

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Monday, November 4, 2013

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### HAWAII SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA NAMES JONATHAN PARRISH EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

**HONOLULU** – The Hawaii Symphony Orchestra (HSO) Board of Directors announced today that Jonathan Parrish will serve as HSO's new executive director. Parrish is an assistant principal horn player with HSO, general manager of Chamber Music Hawaii and adjunct faculty member at the University of Hawaii.

Steven Monder, who has been serving as interim HSO president, will stay on as senior advisor to Parrish and the HSO board to ensure a smooth transition.

"I'm looking forward to continuing the early success of the Hawaii Symphony Orchestra and working with the board and musicians," Parrish said. "Bringing the symphony experience to more of Hawaii's people will be a priority of mine. The buzz in the community is that people are happy the symphony is alive and flourishing."

Paul Kosasa, HSO board chairman, said the timing of Parrish's transition to HSO executive director is still to be worked out. "We are delighted that someone of Mr. Parrish's administrative skills, his deep knowledge and understanding of the orchestra, and his commitment, is stepping into this position," he said.

"We are extremely grateful to Mr. Monder for his nearly three year of service to HSO," Kosasa added. "Steve was hired by a group of local business leaders in 2011 to determine for us whether we could resurrect the local symphony orchestra. After his study confirmed that it could be done, he stayed on as volunteer president of the organization."

(more)

Before his work with HSO, Monder had a successful 37-year career with the Cincinnati Symphony Orchestra, 31 of those years as its chief executive officer.

"I'm pleased to see how far the Hawaii Symphony Orchestra has come and credit the board for investing in such a wonderful community treasure," Monder said. "Jonathan Parrish is an outstanding selection to lead HSO. He has a wealth of successful experience with arts organizations, a keen mind and a passion for excellence. He also has lived in Honolulu for 15 years and is very sensitive to the needs and wishes of the community, and he is committed to this community and its orchestra. I am confident he will carry HSO to new heights."

Jim Moffitt, president of Chamber Music Hawaii and principal clarinet player for HSO, said, "Jonathan led Chamber Music Hawaii to a strong position both artistically and financially. We're sure he will be able to accomplish great things for HSO."

During Parrish's tenure, Chamber Music Hawaii grew dramatically and steadily, expanding its concert series on Oahu and appearing regularly on the neighbor islands. It also established educational and outreach programs that reach all islands and debuted in New York and Europe. The organization has received regular support from private foundations as well as the Hawaii State Foundation on Culture and the Arts, and has achieved balanced budgets in nine out of the last 10 years.

JoAnn Falletta, HSO's artistic advisor who will guest conduct HSO when it performs on Nov. 16 and 17 with renowned flautist Sir James Galway, is enthusiastic about Parrish's appointment. "Having worked closely with Jonathan in filling the HSO chairs this season, I can attest to his passion for the success of HSO," she said. "Jonathan is an excellent successor to Steve Monder and I look forward very much to my continued work with him on a broader range of issues. I am grateful that Steve will continue as senior advisor to our organization, and be with us to help Jonathan build upon the solid success he has initiated. I am confident that Jonathan and I will work collaboratively to assure an orchestral experience of the highest caliber for the state of Hawaii. Hawaii is fortunate indeed to have Jonathan take the reins of this cultural treasure."

Brien Matson, president of the Musicians' Association of Hawaii, Local 677, added: "I have the utmost faith in Jonathan's abilities, drive and vision. I am very happy that he accepted the appointment."

### **About the Hawaii Symphony Orchestra**

The Hawaii Symphony Orchestra, Hawaii's orchestra, is composed of about 80 professional musicians who have won the enthusiastic praise of the nationally and internationally renowned soloists and guest conductors who have performed with it.

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