

**AUSTIN SYMPHONY  
ORCHESTRA****PETER BAY**  
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**September 18, 2024****Maestro Peter Bay signs 3-year contract extension with Austin Symphony Orchestra**

The longest-tenured conductor in the organization's historical 114 seasons

AUSTIN, TX – The Austin Symphony Orchestra (ASO) is proud to announce that Music Director and Conductor Peter Bay has signed a 3-year contract extension. As ASO's ninth conductor, Bay kicked off the exciting 114<sup>th</sup> season last weekend. In 2022, the ASO celebrated Bay's 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary with the organization and established the Peter Bay Artistic Fund to support several initiatives championed by him.

"On behalf of the Board of Trustees, I'm incredibly proud to announce that Peter Bay will continue to lead our orchestra for another three years. As we evolve into a symphony for the 21<sup>st</sup> century, there is no one better suited to guide us with such warmth and excellence as our own local treasure, Peter Bay," said ASO Board of Trustees President Linda van Bavel.

Bay has been an advocate of Texan and Texas-based composers, including Donald Grantham, Kevin Puts, Sam Lipman, Dan Welcher and Christopher Theofanidis. He is also a leader and supporter for adventurous, cross genre presentations and innovative, non-traditional programming. Some highlights include a 2011 collaboration with three-time Grammy nominated Cuban music group Tiempo Libre, a 2014 collaboration with award-winning Texan pop artist Christopher Cross on his album Secret Ladder and an Austin City Limits taping in 2023 featuring Mexican cross-genre guitar duo Rodrigo y Gabriela.

Bay shared, "I am extremely grateful to the Austin Symphony Orchestra for allowing me to continue to make music with this marvelous orchestra, to share our love of beloved masterpieces with our loyal audience, and to introduce newly composed works on all of our series. It's wonderful getting the new season underway!"

As a fixture in the world of classical music, Bay is well-known for his commanding performances and artistic vibrancy. In 2016, Bay was inducted into the Austin Arts Hall of Fame, and in commemorating his 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary with ASO, was presented with a Texas flag that had flown at the Capitol by State Representative Vikki Goodwin.

This exciting news comes right after the ASO returned to Symphony Square in their new space on Red River Street. The address is 1113 Red River St. Austin 78701.

"This is truly a remarkable time for the Austin Symphony Orchestra, for as we move back to Symphony Square where it all began, we move forward with expanded community programs, performances including classic and contemporary works, and a variety of programming for all ages. The new offices along with Peter Bay's continued leadership bring much enthusiasm to what the future holds," said Interim CEO/ Executive Director Jim Green.

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