Texas Music Festival Opens Cool & Classical 2015 Summer Season with Celebrated Concertmaster Glenn Dicterow

HOUSTON – February 11, 2015 . . . Violin virtuoso Glenn Dicterow, celebrated concertmaster of the New York Philharmonic Orchestra from 1980-2013, will headline the Grand Celebratory Opening of the 26th Annual Immanuel and Helen Olshan TEXAS MUSIC FESTIVAL (TMF) Saturday, June 6 at the University of Houston (UH) Moores Opera House. The TMF Orchestra Series concert launches Houston’s summer international music residency where classical music’s rising stars perform in concert with world-class soloists, distinguished conductors and faculty artists June 6 – June 27 at UH Moores School of Music and the Cynthia Woods Mitchell Pavilion.

“We’re thrilled to open our 2015 season with soloist Glenn Dicterow, recognized worldwide as one of the preeminent American concertmasters of his generation,” said Alan Austin, TMF General and Artistic Director. “His visit highlights the two roles of a concertmaster: playing a concerto and imparting his expertise on one of the great works that features the concertmaster, played at TMF by one of the Orchestra fellows,” he noted.

As is tradition, Franz Anton Krager, TMF Music Director & Chief Conductor, will conduct the Orchestra Series opening concert, which features the works of John Adams: Short Ride in a Fast Machine, Samuel Barber: Concerto for Violin and Orchestra, Op. 14 and Richard Strauss: Ein Heldenleben, Op. 40. The three subsequent TMF concerts will spotlight soloists William VerMeulen (June 13), a horn virtuoso known as one of today’s superstars on the international brass scene and Houston Symphony Principal horn; the student winner of the Cynthia Woods Mitchell Young Artist Competition (June 19 and 20); and gifted and communicative pianist and UH Piano Professor Timothy Hester (June 27 Grand Finale concert), under the
respective batons of Maestros Josep Caballé-Domenech, Lavard Skou Larsen and Rossen Milanov.

TMF is a rigorous training ground for serious music students to learn and perform 12 major classical works over four weeks. “The soloists and conductors serve as exemplary teachers and mentors. The residency is inspiring and instructional for our fellows and illuminating for the audience,” says Austin.

As TMF artistic director, Austin is charged with designing challenging programs that strike a balance among the cornerstones of students’ professional repertoire, such as the iconic Beethoven: Symphony No. 5 (in C Minor Op. 67), making its TMF debut, and Stravinsky’s *The Firebird* Suite (1919) (Week 3), and opportunities to learn more enigmatic pieces such as Schoenberg’s *Pelleas and Melisande* (Week 4) that they may encounter only rarely in their lives. (According to Houston Symphony records, the latter piece last was performed and recorded in Houston in November 1994. The Houston Symphony previously performed it in January 1983 and in March 1968 conducted by Sir John Barbirolli.) Programs vary week to week from heroic to romantic, fateful and legendary themes.

“As a Tier One university, the University of Houston thrives to excel in teaching, research and innovation. The UH Arts program plays a key role in this pursuit of excellence. The Texas Music Festival is a shining jewel that enriches all who participate, attracting top talent whose performances feed our hearts and souls,” said UH President Renu Khator. TMF has become Houston’s largest classical music presenter in the month of June with nearly 30 performances, many free or at a nominal cost. Most concerts are indoors on the UH campus (Moores Opera House and Dudley Recital Hall).

According to Austin, nearly 425 applicants from the U.S. and 11 foreign countries applied for the TMF Orchestral Institute this year, representing such noted music schools as Manhattan School of Music, Mannes College, Boston University, New England Conservatory, Northwestern University, Cleveland Institute of Music, Oberlin Conservatory, Eastman School of Music, Ithaca College, Indiana University, University of Michigan, Rice University, University of Houston, University of North Texas and University of Texas. The 95 participants who comprise the Festival Orchestra are chosen by highly competitive live and recorded auditions. “Our application numbers
keep rising because conservatory students see the depth and scope of our repertoire. They have to stretch themselves here, but they relish the opportunity,” Austin explained.

The Festival offers the chance to win a guest soloist role with the **Cynthia Woods Mitchell Young Artist Competition**, which is open to all TMF Orchestra fellows, with the final judging open to the public Sunday, June 7, 2 p.m. at Dudley Recital Hall. The 2015 winner will perform with the Festival Orchestra under the baton of Lavard Skou Larsen at the Cynthia Woods Mitchell Pavilion in The Woodlands Friday, June 19, 8 p.m. and also at the Moores Opera House Saturday, June 20 at 7:30 p.m. The first prize also carries an international invitation to appear in 2015 as a soloist with the Akademisches Orchester in Leipzig, Germany at the prestigious Gewandhaus. The Festival also trains another 250 young musicians through its summer institutes for voice (Le Chiavi: The Keys to Bel Canto), high school jazz and piano, and a new workshop entitled, “The Informed Flutist.”

Pre-concert activities for each TMF Orchestra Series performance include performances by members of Virtuosi of Houston and *Settling the Score*, a lecture series hosted by noted music theorist Dr. Andrew Davis, Director of the Moores School of Music.

TMF also showcases the talents of its faculty artists on three faculty chamber music concerts as part of its PERSPECTIVES Series (Tuesday nights, June 9, 16 and 23.)

TMF is supported, in part, through the generosity of the Immanuel and Helen Olshan Foundation, created by two Houstonians who loved attending summer music gatherings in Colorado and New England. Houston’s Texas Music Festival is considered on par with renowned festivals such as Aspen or Tanglewood Music Festivals.

Saturday Orchestra Series performances are reserved seating. Series and individual tickets may be purchased online at [www.tmf.uh.edu](http://www.tmf.uh.edu) and through the UH Moores School Ticket Office 713-743 3313. Single tickets are $15; $10 for students and seniors and parking is free. The UH Moores Opera House is on the UH Main Campus, I-45 at Cullen Boulevard, Entrance #16. 

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TMF 2015 Orchestra Series Concerts
Saturday evenings, 7:30 p.m., Moores Opera House
Pre-concert performances by members of Virtuosi of Houston begin 6:30 p.m.
Settling the Score, preconcert lectures with Dr. Andrew Davis, begins at 6:40 p.m., Rm. 108
Moores School of Music (MSM)

June 6
Franz Anton Krager, Conductor
Glenn Dicterow, Violin Soloist
John Adams: Short Ride in a Fast Machine
Samuel Barber: Concerto for Violin and Orchestra, Op. 14
Richard Strauss: Ein Heldenleben

June 13
Josep Caballé-Domenech, Conductor
William VerMeulen, French Horn Soloist
Giuseppe Verdi: Overture to La forza del destino
Anthony DiLorenzo: Phoenix for French Horn and Orchestra
Sergei Prokofiev: Selections from the ballet Romeo and Juliet

June 19 (Cynthia Woods Mitchell Pavilion in The Woodlands, 8 p.m. - FREE)
June 20 (UH Moores Opera House, 7:30 p.m.)
Lavard Skou-Larsen, Conductor
To Be Announced – Selection by Winner, Cynthia Woods Mitchell Young Artist Competition
Ludwig van Beethoven: Symphony No. 5 in C Minor, Op. 67
Igor Stravinsky: Suite from The Firebird (1919)
June 27 – Grand Finale

Rossen Milanov, Conductor

Timothy Hester, Piano Soloist

Edward Elgar: Cockaigne Overture, Op. 40

Ludwig van Beethoven: Piano Concerto No. 3 in C Minor, Op. 37

Arnold Schoenberg: Pelleas and Melisande

PERSPECTIVES: Faculty Artist Series

Tuesdays, 7:30 p.m., Dudley Recital Hall

June 9, 16, 23 — Chamber music at its best with TMF faculty artists and guests.

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