



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Albany Symphony Elects Three New Members to Board of Directors Orchestra adds distinguished community leaders to governing body

(ALBANY, NY) - The Albany Symphony is pleased to announce that three new members were elected to its Board of Directors, effective September 1, 2010. **Matthew Bender IV**, **William J. Cromie**, and **Stephen C. Simmons**, each accomplished members of the Capital Region community, were added to the distinguished group of individuals that function as the Albany Symphony's governing board.

In early 2010, the Albany Symphony Board adopted a "Creating a Sustainable Future" plan to improve business operations, to increase audience attendance and to help build a more robust organization. Each new board member has been recruited to help advance this new plan. "I am proud that these outstanding community leaders have joined the Albany Symphony family." remarked the orchestra's Board Chair Steve Lobel. "They will help enhance the critical insight and guidance needed in our continuing efforts to make the Albany Symphony a stronger, more vital institution."

The Albany Symphony's 2010-2011 season marks the 80th Anniversary for the Albany Symphony, and one where it is being recognized for its steadfast commitment to new music, living composers, and innovative programming at the inaugural Spring for Music Festival, held at New York's Carnegie Hall. The orchestra will open its new season on September 11, 2010 with one of the world's greatest living pianists and audience-favorite Yefim Bronfman, at Troy Savings Bank Music Hall. For more information on the Albany Symphony's board of directors, or the orchestra's 80th Anniversary-Carnegie Hall season, please visit www.albanysymphony.com or call (518) 465-4755.

New Board Member Profiles

Matthew Bender IV

For the past thirty years, Matthew Bender has served the Capital Region as community leader and executive volunteer. Prior to his current community work, he had a career in publishing and marketing legal treatises to attorneys and accountants.

Mr. Bender has chaired and served as a member of numerous local and national Boards. He currently serves on the Boards of the Saratoga Performing Arts Center, Albany Medical Center, Historic Albany Foundation, Community Foundation of the Capital Region, New York Council of the Humanities, Aloha Foundation, Preservation League of New York, and the New York State Commission on the Restoration of the Capital.

Previously, Mr. Bender has served on the Boards of Glimmerglass Opera, WMHT, and the George Eastman House, among many other institutions.

Mr. Bender is the chairman of the Bender Family Foundation which provides philanthropic support throughout the Capital Region with an emphasis on five areas that have a significant impact on the quality of life in our region: the arts, culture, education, environment, and history.

Over the years, Mr. Bender has received various awards for his service including the New York State Historic Preservation Lifetime Achievement Award, the James W. Michaels Envoy Award for Community Service, the Citizen Laureate Award from the University at Albany, and the Award for Distinguished Service in Philanthropy from the National Association of Fundraising Executives.

Mr. Bender is a graduate of Princeton University and Albany Academy. He and his wife, Phoebe, reside in Albany and have three adult children.

William J. Cromie, President and CEO, Retired - Capital District Physicians' Health Plan, Inc. (CDPHP)

Dr. Cromie joined CDPHP as president and CEO in September 2001. Dr. Cromie was one of the founding board members of CDPHP, served as vice chairman, and also presided on the executive and finance committees. He retired in 2008.

Prior to his current position, he held the post of vice chairman of the department of surgery at the University of Chicago, and was also professor of surgery and pediatrics at the University. Before that, he served 15 years as professor of surgery and pediatrics at Albany Medical Center. He also held the post of staff surgeon at Children's Hospital in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, after completing his military service as assistant chief of urology at Bethesda Naval Hospital in Maryland.

Dr. Cromie holds an MBA from Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, a medical degree from St. Louis University Medical School, and a bachelor's degree from Fordham University. He is internationally recognized in the medical field, has authored dozens of publications, and has received numerous medical honors.

One of the founding board members of the Albany Ronald McDonald House, he also served on the board of the National Ronald McDonald Children's Charity, the American College at Louvain, Belgium, St. Ignatius College Prep, and many others. He was the senior scholar for the MacLean Center for Medical Ethics in Chicago, and was a founding member of the Lumen Christi Institute at the University of Chicago. Previously holding the post of governor of the American College of Surgeons, Dr. Cromie is also past president of the Society for Pediatric Urology.

He is currently a board member of Capital Bank and Trust, and Little Sisters of the Poor, as well as a trustee for the Fort Orange Club in Albany. In addition, he serves on the advisory board for the Ronald McDonald House, and also on the executive committee for the New York State Business Council, the Center for Economic Growth, and America's Health Insurance Plans.

Dr. Cromie and his wife, Cynthia, reside in Albany and have five grown children.

Stephen C. Simmons, President - Simmons Computing Service Inc.

Mr. Simmons serves as President of Simmons Computing Service Inc., based in Albany, NY. For over 30 years, the company has specialized in business systems consulting and software design and development. He has served on a number of community boards including Fort Orange Club, Fort Miller Corporation, CDPHP, and has served as President at the Schuyler Meadows Club and Lakeside Residences Association.

Mr. Simmons holds an MBA from Harvard Business School, an MS from Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, and a Bachelor of Science degree from Princeton University. He and his wife, Jane, reside in Loudonville and have two grown children.

About the ASO

The Albany Symphony is one of this region's most revered music and cultural institutions, having won numerous national awards for its adventurous concert programming, recording projects, composer residencies, and innovative educational efforts involving area schools throughout the region. As the only professional symphony orchestra based within the Capital

Region, the Albany Symphony enriches a broad and diverse regional community, engaging over 150,000 people each year across an extended geographical area. After reviewing the Albany Symphony's recent 2009 recording of music by resident composer George Tsontakis, American Record Guide proclaimed: "The Albany Symphony is now one of the country's great orchestras."

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