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SEATTLE SYMPHONY NAMES RENÉ ANCINAS BOARD CHAIR-ELECT

**Port Blakely CEO will Serve in 2017–2018 Season as Chair-Elect Before Becoming
Board Chair in the 2018–2019 Season**

Seven New Directors with Varied Backgrounds Also Join the Board

Seattle, WA – The Seattle Symphony Board of Directors has elected **René Ancinas**, CEO of Port Blakely, as its next Board Chair. Ancinas will serve as Chair-Elect during the 2017–2018 season before becoming Chair in the 2018–2019 season. Ancinas succeeds **Leslie Jackson Chihuly**, who is stepping down at the end of the 2017–2018 season following nine years as Chair. A trained clarinetist, with degrees from Oberlin Conservatory and the San Francisco Conservatory, Ancinas completed the Executive MBA program at the University of Washington before moving into his leadership role at the family-owned forest products company.

The Board also elected seven new Directors including: **Paula Boggs**, Founder of Boggs Media and former Executive Vice President and General Counsel at Starbucks; **Meredith J. Broderick**, Sleep Disorders Medicine/Neurology Physician at Overlake Internal Medicine Associates; **Isiaah Crawford**, President of University of Puget Sound; **Molly Gabel**, Managing Director, Associate General Counsel, Alaska Airlines; **Viren Kamdar**, Managing Director at Cornerstone Advisors; **Ronald Koo**, Partner at Perkins Coie; **James E. Schwab**, former President and CEO of Interact for Health in Cincinnati, Ohio.

Two former Directors who are rejoining the Symphony Board are **Douglas Jackson**, General Counsel at Magnus Investments, LLC; and **Stephen Kutz**, Managing Director and Regional Director at Bessemer Trust.

“I am honored and excited to have been elected to serve as the Symphony’s next Board Chair,” commented Ancinas. “This is a great organization on an inspiring trajectory and I look forward

to working with Leslie, Simon and the entire team to build on this momentum, bringing the power of music to our community and inviting our community into the Symphony family.”

“I am thrilled that René has accepted the invitation to become the Seattle Symphony’s next Board Chair,” said **Simon Woods**, the Seattle Symphony’s President & CEO. “He represents a new generation of business leaders stepping into vital cultural leadership roles in our region. Since joining our Board he has shown great leadership, using his knowledge of music, his business acumen, and his firm grasp on governance and management to help move our organization forward. He’s deeply committed to our mission, and his leadership will be a wonderful addition to our organization as we continue our exciting journey of growth and evolution. I greatly look forward to working in partnership with René in the years to come.”

Chihuly added, “I am very pleased that René Ancinas has been selected to succeed me as Board Chair at the end of my tenure in 2018, and I’m confident that with his combination of skills and talents he will build on the great work we have done in recent years. It’s also exciting to elect such a strong new slate of Directors. Organizations like the Seattle Symphony can only succeed if they have passionate and dedicated boards, and I’m looking forward to the insights that this new leadership will bring.”

Ancinas was recommended at a meeting of the Symphony’s Board of Directors on June 27 by Marco Abbruzzese, Chair of the Board Chair Search Committee, which comprised Seattle Symphony Board members, musicians and staff. As Chair-Elect, Ancinas will also serve as an at-large member of the Board’s Executive Committee during the 2017–2018 season, and will be formally elected as Chair in June 2018.

Chihuly has served as Chair since 2009, and notified the Board in June 2016 of her desire to conclude her tenure as Chair at the end of the 2017–2018 season. She was responsible for the appointment of both Music Director Ludovic Morlot and President & CEO Simon Woods, and along with Morlot and Woods, has led the organization through a period of unprecedented artistic growth and renewed commitment to the community. Chihuly and her husband, Dale, will be honored at the Seattle Symphony’s Opening Night Gala on September 16.

About René Ancinas



René Ancinas is Chairman and CEO of Port Blakely, which grows and markets renewable forest products around the globe. In his role, Ancinas oversees Port Blakely's forestry operations in Washington and Oregon (U.S. Forestry), New Zealand (NZ Forestry) and log exports (PLS International).

After spending five years in various posts throughout the company, including COO from 2008 to 2010, Ancinas was appointed CEO in July 2010 and was elected Chairman of its

Board of Directors in July 2015.

Prior to joining Port Blakely, Ancinas worked in program management and product development. He spent several years with Kodak EasyShare Gallery (formerly Ofoto.com) as Senior Technical Program Manager, where he managed cross-functional teams that designed, developed and launched consumer products using digital images.

Ancinas was a founding member and first President of the Eddy Family Council where, as a family owner, he led a five-year effort to establish a sustainable family business governance structure for the fifth generation company. He currently serves on the Board of the National Alliance of Forest Owners (NAFO) and the Olympic Region Board of NatureBridge. Additionally, Ancinas is a member of the Washington Roundtable, the Seattle Chamber of Commerce Community Development Roundtable and Forterra's Leadership Team. He is also an active member in Young Presidents Organization (YPO).

Ancinas earned an Executive MBA from the University of Washington's Foster School of Business in 2009. A professionally trained classical clarinetist, he received a Bachelor of Music from Oberlin College Conservatory of Music in 1988 and Master of Music from the San Francisco Conservatory of Music in 1990.

About the Seattle Symphony

The Seattle Symphony is one of America's leading symphony orchestras and is internationally acclaimed for its innovative programming and extensive recording history. Under the leadership of Music Director Ludovic Morlot since September 2011, the Symphony is heard from September through July by more than 500,000 people through live performances and radio broadcasts. It performs in one of the finest modern concert halls in the world — the acoustically superb Benaroya Hall — in downtown Seattle. Its extensive education and community engagement programs reach over 65,000 children and adults each year. The Seattle

Symphony has a deep commitment to new music, commissioning many works by living composers each season. The orchestra has made nearly 150 recordings and has received three Grammy Awards, 23 Grammy nominations, two Emmy Awards and numerous other accolades. In 2014 the Symphony launched its in-house recording label, Seattle Symphony Media.

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