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STULBERG INTERNATIONAL STRING COMPETITION NAMES NEW EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

(Kalamazoo, Mich.) Megan Yankee has been named Executive Director of the Stulberg International String Competition in a recent announcement by Board chair Jane Rooks Ross. Yankee replaces long-time Executive Director Margaret Hamilton, who announced her year-end retirement earlier this year.

“We are delighted to welcome Megan to the Stulberg,” said Board president Jane Rooks Ross. “Her energy, experiences and vision will serve us well as we support gifted young string players nationally, internationally, and in our own community.

Yankee is a respected musician and leader with experience in the arts and social services. Her arts experience includes operations, marketing and development positions with the Detroit Chamber Winds and Strings, The Philadelphia Orchestra Association and The Music Center of South Central Michigan.

Her social service leadership positions include The Phoenix Society for Burn Survivors in Grand Rapids, The Boy Scouts of America and she currently serves as Senior Development Manager of the Community Healing Centers in Kalamazoo.

She is a graduate of Western Michigan University with a Bachelor of Arts in Nonprofit Management and earned credentials through the Nonprofit Leadership Alliance as a Certified Nonprofit Professional (CNP). She is a trained violinist. She has served as president of the Board of Trustees for the Suzuki Academy of Kalamazoo and as a grant review panelist for Michigan Council for the Arts and Cultural Affairs.

Her tenure with The Stulberg begins on Jan. 6. A welcoming reception will be scheduled in the near future. The mission of the Stulberg Competition is to promote excellence in string instrument
performance by gifted artists under the age of twenty.

More About The Stulberg International String Competition--

One evening in 1975, a small group of friends and colleagues of the late Julius Stulberg met in the home of his widow, Esther Leiberman Stulberg. Their purpose: to establish a memorial in honor of Julius and his life’s work—that of sharing music and his love of working with young musicians.

At the time of his death in 1974, Julius was Professor of Violin at Western Michigan University, where he had been the conductor of the University Symphony for 28 years. In addition, he had conducted the Kalamazoo Junior Symphony Orchestra for 31 years. Julius was a highly-respected teacher of violin whose former students were and are playing in major orchestras in the United States and Europe. His impact on the lives of young musicians was immeasurable. It was in recognition of his impact that the Stulberg International String Competition was born.

The growth has been tremendous, developing from a regional competition to one of international recognition. Participants apply by February 1st (click here). A panel of judges listens to each application and from over a hundred applicants, twelve semifinalists are invited to come to Kalamazoo, Michigan in May for the Competition. The day-long competition is exciting and exhilarating for the audience and participants alike. An evening concert of the six finalists determines the three medalists. (click here)

As a part of the Competition and in keeping with Julius Stulberg's philosophy, Master Classes are held the next day, with Competition judges serving as clinicians. Following Julius' teaching example and his love of students, this is a special opportunity for regional string students to observe and to receive instruction. (click here)

The Stulberg's outreach program presents the talents of the medalists to school groups, senior citizen venues as well as concerts with the Kalamazoo Symphony Orchestra, the Kalamazoo Junior Symphony Orchestra, Western Michigan University Symphony and the Grand Rapids Symphony.

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