



NEWS

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MAY FESTIVAL ANNOUNCES NEW BOARD OFFICERS AND STEVEN SUNDERMAN NAMED EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

CINCINNATI – The Cincinnati May Festival has elected **Kelley J. Downing** as **Chair of the organization’s Board of Trustees**. She assumed the role from Thomas L. Neyer, Jr. immediately following the Trustees’ June Annual Meeting. Ms. Downing is President and CEO of Bartlett & Co. and has been a member of the May Festival Board since 2006. In addition to naming new officers and Board members, the Board also authorized title changes to better reflect the work that is being done by two Administrative leaders.

Kelley J. Downing is President and CEO of Bartlett & Co. She also serves as an Investment Advisor and a member of the Executive Committee. She focuses her practice on delivering investment management services to high net worth clients, and to foundations and endowments. Ms. Downing assumed the role of Bartlett’s President and CEO in mid-2007 and is the first female in this role in Bartlett’s 113-year history. Her other volunteer activities include service as founding member and Treasurer of the Board of St. Vincent DePaul Charitable Pharmacy, Secretary of Downtown Cincinnati Inc. (DCI), board member of CWEF (Cincinnati Women Executive Forum) and a member of Executive Leadership Team of the American Heart Association “Go Red for Women” campaign. She was a member of Leadership Cincinnati Class XXVII.



Kelley J. Downing

The May Festival has a unique cooperative agreement with the Cincinnati Symphony Orchestra (CSO) whereby the annual Festival leverages administrative resources of the CSO. These resources and expertise allows both organizations to support exceptional artistic quality at a lower cost. To underscore this point, CSO President **Trey Devey**, who previously held the title of May Festival Executive Director, **has been named President of the May Festival** as well, reflecting his role in managing the shared resources of both organizations.



Steven Sunderman

Steven Sunderman has been named Executive Director of the Cincinnati May Festival and is responsible for the year-round day-to-day operations of the May Festival. A 25-year veteran of the May Festival and CSO, Mr. Sunderman has been the May Festival's Director of Administration, Marketing and Development for the past fifteen years. During his tenure with the May Festival, the organization has had a financially sound history of twenty consecutive years of balanced budgets highlighted by critically acclaimed performances, recordings, television broadcasts and tours as well as educational projects and community initiatives. Under Mr. Sunderman's dedicated leadership, the May Festival has enjoyed some of the highest attended seasons in its 138-year history as well as unprecedented support in its annual fundraising campaigns from individuals, foundations and corporations to support this world-class organization.

Early in his career, Mr. Sunderman coordinated the 125th Anniversary celebration of the May Festival, implemented a strategic plan, and successfully completed a \$2.2 million endowment campaign. Recently he established The Festival Society, to honor individuals and families who have made a gift to the May Festival's endowment fund through their estate plans, assuring the May Festival continues to maintain its worldwide reputation as "America's Premier Choral Festival". Mr. Sunderman will play a key role in strategically directing the May Festival as it implements a newly created long range plan.

"Steven's long history with the May Festival has been a key factor in the fiscal success of the organization. This new title more appropriately represents the breadth of his responsibilities and the outstanding leadership he provides to the May Festival," commented Trey Devey, President of the May Festival.

Joining Kelley Downing as new Board Officers for the May Festival are **Shane Starkey as Vice Chair, Mark Holcomb as Treasurer and Mary Gimpel as Secretary. Tom Neyer, Jr. will become the Past Chair of the Board.** Kelley Downing reflects, "May Festival is exceptionally well positioned with a strong Board of Trustees, as well as dedicated artistic and administrative leadership as we embark on a long range plan. I am pleased to help lead this great organization at an important moment in its history."

The May Festival Board of Trustees also elected the following nine new members: **Dr. David Billmire, Carl Coburn, Eric Combs, John Earls, Paulette Keys, Susan Laffoon, Thom Mariner, Jonathan Theders, and Nydia Tranter.**

Dr. David Billmire is the Director of Plastic Surgery at Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center. He has been at the forefront of craniofacial surgery, introducing craniofacial bone distraction to the Cincinnati area in 1994. He has served as the President of the Ohio Valley

Society of Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery and as a guest examiner for the qualifying exam of the American Board of Plastic Surgery.

Carl Coburn, CPA, is the President of Clark Schaefer Hackett and is director of the firm's Financial Institutions Services Group. He is also involved in accounting, auditing, and consulting for a variety of businesses, including non-profit, distributing and manufacturing companies. In his volunteer work, Mr. Coburn has served as District Auditor for the Boy Scouts of America, head of the Financial Committee and Chairman of Elders for Faith Christian Fellowship Church and as United Way Employee Coordinator.

Eric Combs is a partner in the Litigation Department of Taft Stettinius & Hollister LLP. He has substantial trial experience in federal and state courts, and also practices in the firm's Sports Practice Area. Mr. Combs is Chair of the Associate Member Allocations Committee of ArtsWave, a Board member of the Cincinnati Bar Foundation, Volunteer Lawyers for the Poor Foundation and the Board of Deacons at Knox Presbyterian Church.

John Earls is the Chief Financial Officer of Prospect House, Inc., a not-for-profit social services agency located in Price Hill. Mr. Earls is the President of the Board of Trustees of the Vocal Arts Ensemble. He also serves on the Executive Committee of the Cincinnati Opera and is a Board Member of the Literacy Center West. He and his wife Joanne are long time supporters of choral music in the Greater Cincinnati area.

Paulette Keys retired from 28 years with Cincinnati Public Schools, most recently as Central Administration Manager of Pre-School Disabilities. Her career focused on working with early childhood and students with disabilities. Ms. Keys community volunteer work includes eight years with Jack and Jill of America, Inc., both locally and regionally, nurturing future leaders by supporting children through leadership development, volunteer service and civic duty. She is also a Past Chapter President of the Queen City of The Links, Inc. and the Cincinnati Woman's Alliance.

Susan Laffoon is returning to the May Festival Board of Trustees after a thirty-one year absence. She was elected the first woman President of the Board in 1980 and was the former Chair of the May Festival Woman's Committee. Her volunteer work over the years in Cincinnati has been vast. Her previous Board memberships have included the Cincinnati Symphony Orchestra, Seven Hills School, American Red Cross, WGUC and she is a Life Trustee of ArtsWave. In her professional career Ms. Laffoon held various positions at the Greater Cincinnati Chamber of Commerce and has also served as the Director of Development at the Cincinnati Art Museum.

Thom Mariner has been a co-owner/co-publisher of Express Cincinnati, the regional print and online publication showcasing nonprofits and the arts for the past three years. He is in his 19th season as a member of the Vocal Arts Ensemble and serves on the Board of the Constella Festival, a newly formed celebration of musical and artistic collaboration, to debut in October

2011. Mr. Mariner brings extensive experience in qualitative market research, as well as a broad musical background to the May Festival Board.

Jonathan Theders is the President of Clark-Theders Insurance Agency, Inc. His thirteen years with this agency have provided a customer-oriented approach to business and personal insurance and risk management built on high standards of integrity. Mr. Theders also is a member of Professional Insurance Agents of Ohio, Aims Society, and Community Foundation of West Chester.

Nydia Tranter has been living in Cincinnati for 21 years. She has been an active docent for the Cincinnati Art Museum since moving to Cincinnati. Born in Havana, Cuba, Ms. Tranter is fluent in four languages and lived for 18 years in Washington, DC. She has also been very active on numerous Boards including the World Piano Competition and Cincinnati Opera.