

Dear OBF Friends,

As president of the Friends of Oregon Bach Festival Advisory Board, I'd like to share some thoughts with OBF patrons and supporters following recent events and media coverage associated with changes in artistic leadership of the festival. As you can imagine, it has been a challenging time for all of us. University of Oregon leaders and the board have met on numerous occasions to sort through the appropriate next steps and to discuss how best to position the festival for long-term success.

In our commitment to move forward, the board enthusiastically endorses the recent decision to move management of the festival to the UO School of Music and Dance. We are confident this change, coupled with the opening of the new Berwick Hall, will improve festival operations and provide opportunities to better integrate with the broader mission of the university. The UO leadership has made a clear and emphatic statement that the festival will continue to receive the university's wholehearted support. Over the coming months, School of Music & Dance Dean Brad Foley, the provost's office, and festival leadership, including the board, will engage in conversations about the critical role each plays in securing the finest talent and programming for OBF. Our board's goal is to be a meaningful voice for the OBF community.

The festival will evolve in the coming years as we adapt to the changing interests of our audience and strengthen our relevance to the university. In planning the 2018 season and beyond, one consideration will stand at the center of our efforts. Our commitment to the artistic vision and core principles laid out by our founders, Helmuth Rilling and Royce Saltzman, will not change. OBF will continue to bring musical performances and educational programs to our community that are built around the monumental contributions to music of J.S. Bach. We recommend that an artistic leader of the highest caliber be recruited and retained to advance this vision and focus.

Each of us on the board has heard from many of OBF's musicians, audience members and donors. We are all committed to the same goal – we want to see the festival flourish and enrich lives for many decades to come. We ask for your help and support in our on-going efforts to assure that OBF thrives and pledge to work with you to that end. By working together and focusing on its exciting potential, we can secure a bright future for Oregon Bach Festival.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "BRAD STANGELAND". The letters are bold and slightly slanted, with some ink bleed-through from the reverse side of the paper.

Brad Stangeland
President, The Board of the Friends of Oregon Bach Festival