



## OREGON BACH FESTIVAL

**Matthew Halls** *Artistic Director*  
**Janelle McCoy** *Executive Director*

### **MEDIA RELEASE**

CONTACT: Josh Gren, Director of Marketing & Communications  
458-210-6631 or [jgren@uoregon.edu](mailto:jgren@uoregon.edu)

## **OBF ARTISTIC DIRECTOR MATTHEW HALLS WELCOMES NEW ADDITION WILL MISS 2017 OPENING CONCERTS**

June 28, 2017 – [Eugene, OR] – **Oregon Bach Festival** (OBF) is delighted to announce the arrival of a new addition to the Festival family. OBF Artistic Director Matthew Halls and his wife, Erin Cooper Gay Halls, shared news of the birth of a healthy baby boy during the early morning hours of June 27. Halls, who was in Eugene preparing for the beginning of the 2017 Festival, immediately flew back to Toronto to welcome their son.

The birth comes just 48 hours before the start of the 2017 Season, scheduled to open with Halls conducting back-to-back performances of Bach's *St. Matthew Passion*. As Halls attends to family affairs, **Scott Allen Jarrett** will step-in to conduct the massive choral work.

Jarrett has been a regular fixture with OBF for more than five years, and is currently the Director of the OBF Vocal Fellows program. Over the years, he has served in many roles including Director of the Conducting Master Class. Described as having "an impressive level of precision" by the *Boston Music Intelligencer* and as being an orchestra leader of "vibrant performance [and] fine details" by *Boston Classical Review*, Jarrett is an accomplished musician in his own right, having established himself as one of today's leading choral and orchestral conductors. Based in Boston, Jarrett is the Director of Choral Activities at Boston University, and recently celebrated his twelfth season as Music Director at Back Bay Chorale. He is a resident conductor of the Handel + Haydn Society, and was the Assistant Conductor for the Charlotte Symphony for more than a decade. Off the podium, he is an accomplished keyboardist.

Jarrett will serve as conductor for the June 29 and June 30 performances of *St. Matthew Passion* at Beall Concert Hall on the University of Oregon Campus. Halls is expected to return to Eugene mid-Festival to resume duties as Maestro on his remaining scheduled concerts.

###