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Longy Appoints New Board Chair and Music Director
On Cusp of 100th Anniversary, Conservatory Shaping Musical and Programmatic Future

Cambridge, MA: Investment and financial advisor Thomas Burger has been appointed chairman of the Longy Board, following a meeting of the school’s Board of Trustees this summer. This announcement comes alongside the arrival of Geoffrey McDonald, the conservatory’s new music director and current assistant conductor of the American Symphony Orchestra.

Burger, founder of the Gloucester-based Hamilton group, has years of board experience in the Boston area, most recently serving as chairman of the board for Rockport Music for six years. Under his leadership the organization raised $20 million to build the thriving three-year-old Shalin Liu Performance Center in Gloucester, MA. Burger is a 1967 graduate of Harvard College, earning his MBA from Harvard Business School in 1973.

Says Longy’s president, Karen Zorn, “We couldn’t be more thrilled to have Tom as partner and leader for Longy. His enthusiasm is infectious, his ideas are ambitious, and he brings a level of business acumen and focus that are absolutely critical during a time of unprecedented reach, conservatory enrollment, and programmatic expansion for the school.”

The school’s recently launched Master of Arts in Teaching in music degree program has quadrupled in its second year, and the Cambridge-based conservatory is expecting record enrollment for 2013-14.

Community engagement programs, like Longy’s Teaching Artists Program, which sends all conservatory students into local public schools as teachers, and an intensified focus on advancing the work of El Sistema-inspired programs in Boston and beyond, says the administration, are part of a movement to respond to student demand – a new demand for musicians who are educated as both artists and teachers.
As Burger steps into his role as board chair, the 2013-14 performance season kicks off in September under the direction of Geoffrey McDonald. Longy’s new music director will assume leadership of the Longy Conservatory Orchestra and the school’s conducting curriculum while continuing his posts at the American Symphony Orchestra and Bard College. The position was previously held by Julian Pellicano, now with the Winnipeg Symphony Orchestra. Says Dean Wayman Chin, “Longy is reinventing what it means to be a conservatory in the 21st Century. Because of his multi-faceted career as a cellist, pianist, teacher, and scholar, McDonald brings essential skills and versatility to the job.”

McDonald holds a bachelor’s degree in musicology from Princeton University, and a master’s degree from Mannes College of Music.

About Longy School of Music of Bard College

Longy School of Music of Bard College, founded as Longy School of Music in 1915 by renowned oboist Georges Longy, is a degree-granting Conservatory located in Harvard Square in Cambridge, Massachusetts. The school serves 225 undergraduate and graduate students from 37 states and 20 countries at our central Cambridge campus and recently-opened Master of Arts in Teaching campus in Los Angeles, CA. For all students, Longy provides a distinguished faculty that promotes profound musical understanding and technical mastery, encourages growth of imagination, and fosters inquiry about the role of music and the musician in the larger world. With a curriculum rooted in the traditions of Western music, Longy’s mission is to prepare musicians to make a difference in the world.