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Jean-Marie Zeitouni completes tenure as Music Director in Festival's 40th Anniversary Season. Peter Oundjian to lead 2018 Season as Artistic Advisor.

BOULDER, Colo. -- (April 9, 2017) -- Jean-Marie Zeitouni will complete his three-year tenure as Music Director at the end of the Colorado Music Festival's upcoming 40th anniversary season. Under Maestro Zeitouni's leadership, CMF has grown artistically and presented many new, innovative programs. The Festival is excited to continue that momentum into the 2017 season, with Zeitouni leading the orchestra in a number of large-scale works, beginning with an all-Russian program with pianist Olga Kern to open the festival on 29 June, and featuring two of the greatest symphonies in the repertoire in later programs, Beethoven's Ninth and Mahler's Ninth.

"It has been a great joy to work with CMF & CMA over the past years. I instantly fell in love with Boulder and the beauty of Chautauqua. The community has been so gracious to me and my family, and it's especially meaningful to have shared these experiences with my young daughter. Leading the CMF orchestra has been a magical experience. Their astonishing energy and passion is evident in every single note they play. And the audience is so responsive; we truly feel their presence on stage. It's a very special connection and I hope everyone cherishes these moments as much as I do, and looks forward to those still to come" said Zeitouni. Zeitouni will return to the CMF stage in 2018, marking the first of a three-year engagement with the orchestra as principal guest conductor.

Continuing CMF's tradition of attracting international talent, Peter Oundjian, Music Director of the Toronto Symphony Orchestra and Royal Scottish National Orchestra, has been engaged as Artistic Advisor for its 2018 season.

Oundjian will assume overall responsibility for the 2018 season programming and will conduct a number of concerts during the season. As part of the transition, CMF looks forward to welcoming Peter Oundjian to Boulder during the 2017 Festival to liaise with Maestro Zeitouni and meet CMF orchestra musicians, many of whom have worked with him in the past.

Oundjian said “Joining the Colorado Music Festival as Artistic Advisor for the 2018 season is a wonderful opportunity. I’m excited by the quality of music-making and the ambition shown in the programming and am looking forward to continuing to develop those aspects of this unique festival.”

The Colorado Music Festival runs for six weeks from June 29 through August 4, 2017. Performances are held at Boulder’s own historic Chautauqua Auditorium with concerts on Sunday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday, and Saturday evenings. Friday night Symphony Sampler concerts begin at 6:30 p.m. All other concerts begin at 7:30 p.m. Tickets are on sale now at the Chautauqua Box Office, by phone at 303.440.7666, or online at <http://coloradomusicfestival.org/>.

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*Founded in 1976, the **Colorado Music Festival (CMF)** presents a summer season of classical music concerts performed by professional musicians from around the world at the historic Chautauqua Auditorium in Boulder. Emerging talent from Europe, Asia, South America and the U.S. join CMF musicians in performances that inspire and engage concertgoers of all ages. Under the skilled baton of Music Director Jean-Marie Zeitouni, the CMF thrills audiences of more than 20,000 each season with programming that embraces the most beloved classical music repertoire, while integrating world music and the works of exciting modern composers. In October of 2009 the Colorado Music Festival merged with Rocky Mountain Center for Musical Arts, an organization founded in 1995, fulfilling the vision of Music for all...for life!™ by providing quality, creative music-making experiences for people of all ages, abilities, cultural backgrounds, and financial circumstances. In 2013 the new name, **Colorado Music Festival & Center for Musical Arts (CMF & CMA)** was chosen. The **Center for Musical Arts** serves between 600-700 students weekly, ages six months through 80 years, through a variety of programs, and has a highly-skilled faculty of 40 professional teaching artists. In addition to educational offerings, hundreds of community audience members are served annually through a number of guest artist and faculty performances. The CMA’s Heartstrings Program of need-based tuition assistance and a 200-piece “bank” of string and wind instruments for area school children assure that no one is turned away.*