



Media Release - for immediate release
January 26, 2016

Diane K Handler Has Been Named Elgin Symphony Orchestra Director of Marketing

Diane K. Handler has been named Director of Marketing at the Elgin Symphony Orchestra. Handler previously worked as the director of the University of Iowa arts outreach program, Arts Share, and as Media Relations Manager at the Chicago Symphony Orchestra. She also worked at the Merit School of Music as marketing director and at WBZ-TV Boston as an assistant producer.

A St. Charles resident, she served on the Steel Beam Theatre board of directors as chair of the marketing committee and volunteered with the Saint Charles Arts Council. For the past two years, she has also produced the People for the Arts or P-ARTS Variety Show at East High School, the largest fundraiser for the organization and a featured program of ARTSFest St Charles.

Handler has a BA in International Relations, an MA in Journalism and a JD with distinction in Public Service. She and her husband Brian have two (2) daughters - Nadia, a junior at the University of Minnesota-Twin Cities studying biology and business and Mara, a senior at St Charles East High School. Handler studied voice at Milliken with Emily McKnight, at Boston University with Phyllis Curtain and with Lucille Halfverson and Neva Baily at the Merit School of Music.

Dave Bearden, CEO of the Elgin Symphony Orchestra, commented on the appointment of Diane. "We are very fortunate to find a person of Diane's background and experience for this vital position. Her familiarity with the area as well as her deep connection to so many cultural organizations makes her the ideal candidate to create new marketing programs and campaigns that attract new patrons and new demographics. We look forward to her creativity and unique perspective to better serve our current and future patrons."

The Elgin Symphony Orchestra, now in its 65th season, offers programming unmatched for an entertaining, informative and relaxing cultural experience. Known for their high-quality performances, ESO musicians represent some of the most talented musical artists in the region. In addition to magnificent music, patrons can also enjoy a drink, spend time with friends and even shop in the lobby of the Hemmens Cultural Center. After Saturday night performances, the audience is invited to the ESO's "Mingle with the Musicians" at the Elgin Public House, 219 E Chicago Street. From start to finish, the ESO brings world class, big city entertainment without the hassles of the big city. "Suburban music lovers no longer have to migrate to downtown Chicago to catch first-rate orchestra concerts." - John von Rhein, The Chicago Tribune

#