



# The Pro Arte Chamber Orchestra of Greater Washington

## PRESS RELEASE

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### **The Pro Arte Chamber Orchestra of Greater Washington Appoints Maestro Dimitar Nikolov to the podium.**

The Pro Arte Chamber Orchestra of Greater Washington's (PACO) Board of Directors is pleased to announce the appointment of acclaimed conductor Dimitar Nikolov as its Principal Conductor. Maestro Nikolov is scheduled to make his debut at the conducting podium in late September of 2018. The position was previously held by Dr. Yeong-Su Kim until he relocated to teach at Konkuk University and Conduct with Symphony S.O.N.G., both in Seoul Korea.

Nikolov began his career as Assistant Conductor of the Burgas State Opera in Bulgaria. Early in his career he won the Vienna Chamber Orchestra competition and had the opportunity to conduct a subscription concert with one of the world's greatest chamber orchestras. This success led to numerous guest conducting opportunities with most of the major Bulgarian symphony orchestras and his appointment as Music Director/Conductor of the Bulgarian National Wind Symphony. After moving to the US in 1996, Dr. Nikolov served as Music Director/Conductor of the Fort Dodge Symphony and Assistant Conductor of Des Moines Metro Opera, before his current appointment as Music Director of the Baltimore Philharmonia Orchestra. He has conducted concerts in some of the most prestigious world concert halls such as The Kennedy Center of Performing Arts, Mozart Hall (Vienna, Austria), and The National Palace of Culture Concert Hall (Sofia, Bulgaria).

Dimitar Nikolov, a versatile conductor, pianist, and educator, has conducted orchestras and opera performances in the United States and Europe. Audiences have been impressed by his ability to energize the orchestra and to produce a unique sound within a large dynamic range. He has held conducting positions in the US and his native country Bulgaria, including his current position as Music Director/Conductor of Baltimore Philharmonia Orchestra. Dr. Nikolov has appeared as guest conductor with orchestras in the United States, Austria, Bulgaria, Italy, Spain, Russia, Romania, and Ukraine.

Dimitar has studied with many eminent conductors such as Ilya Mousine, Yury Temirkanov, James Levine, and Alan Gilbert. In 1999, as a fellowship recipient, he spent a summer in Aspen, studying with David Zinman and Murry Sidlin. He has a DMA in Orchestral Conducting from The Catholic University of America and MM from the National Academy of Music-Sofia, Bulgaria.

An active educator, Dimitar has served on the music faculty of The Catholic University of America, Waldorf University, Simpson College, the International School of Music, and the Bulgarian National Academy of Music.

"We had five truly exceptional candidates to choose from," said PACO Chairman, Artistic Director, and Search Committee Chair William Marlowe. "While it was an extremely difficult decision to make, Maestro Nikolov's varied experience with innovative programming, music education, and fundraising experience dovetails perfectly with PACO's mission. Dimitar is an exceptional leader who built instant connections during his audition week with PACO." Marlowe also said that PACO's year-long search for its next conductor created energy and a buzz in the community unlike any he's ever experienced before, and bringing Nikolov on board will help fuel and maintain that level of excitement for years to come. "We are looking ever-so forward to welcoming Dimitar to the PACO family," Marlowe said. "He will bring verve and talent to one of the Metropolitan Washington's greatest treasures – the Pro Arte Chamber Orchestra of Greater Washington."

Several patrons who were very engaged in the evaluation process of PACO's next maestro were excited by Nikolov's performance: "Magnetic. Fabulous." "I was mesmerized." "Very energetic and fun to watch." "He ... unified the music into an art form that made it difficult to hold back my emotions." "His demeanor, musical knowledge, style and personality are a perfect fit for PACO."

After surveying the orchestra's musicians, one described Nikolov as "Mr. Nikolov showed many of the qualities I desire in a conductor: musicianship, personality, efficient and detailed use of rehearsal time, ease on the stand, and even an easy-to-follow conducting pattern!" Another musician was impressed by his "exceptional musicianship," describing him as "the most inspirational and enjoyable to work under. He was efficient in working difficult sections and consistent in conveying his direction." "He connected with the players and audience. It's clear he has a genuine love for music-making that is infectious. I think he's the best choice to help PACO grow to the next level." And lastly, "What a positive, happy soul...there was exuberance in his conducting that I haven't seen in a long time."

The Pro Arte Chamber Orchestra of Greater Washington is Metropolitan Washington's premier performing arts organization, presenting several classical, and chamber-music concerts annually. Currently in its 5th season, PACO is a proud member of the community and enriches the region by providing high-quality concerts at affordable prices.

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