



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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## **EMV Announces Departure of Matthew White, Executive & Artistic Director**

**Vancouver, BC** – Early Music Vancouver (EMV), announced today that Matthew White, EMV’s Executive and Artistic Director, will be departing the organization to take on the role of CEO at the Victoria Symphony effective October 1, 2020.

“After eight years leading EMV, Matthew White leaves the organization flourishing and in excellent organizational health,” said Fran Watters, Board President. “Under his leadership, EMV has enjoyed tremendous growth and success and we can look forward to planning our next steps with confidence. The Board and Staff wish him all the best in his new role.”

Since 2012, Matthew has played a central part in more than doubling EMV’s budget and administrative capacity as well as in dramatically growing EMV’s audience. EMV now offers one of the most ambitious programs of its type in North America, presenting and producing between 40-50 concerts per year featuring internationally renowned local, regional and guest artists. It has substantial Education and Outreach programs including a Baroque Orchestra Mentorship Programme, a BC Scholarship Programme, several free concert series, and a growing valuable instrument collection. The most recent acquisition to the collection is an exquisite copy of an 1819 fortepiano built by Czech builder Paul McNulty on a model by Conrad Graf to be delivered in the winter of 2021. In 2016-17, Matthew drove the initiative for EMV to take on the management and administration of the Pacific Baroque Orchestra (PBO) as a fully integrated division of its operations. Most recently, under his leadership, EMV created the Pacific Baroque Series in Victoria to be a second major regional platform for the PBO and other large-scale EMV productions. The first two years of operation of this series has been an unequivocal success and represents an excellent opportunity for future growth and organizational expansion.

“I have worked with Matt for over 20 years and there are not many people in our business who are as devoted, inspiring, energetic, clever, strategic, and finally as down-to-earth and fun to work with,” said Alexander Weimann, PBO music director. “Though I am sad to see him leave the helm at EMV, his new position at the Victoria Symphony is excellent news for the broader musical community in British Columbia, and it will be exciting to imagine new ways of collaborating together.”

“Working with EMV has been the highlight of my professional life so far,” said Matthew White. “I am honoured and thankful for the work we have all done together to build this programme into one of the most successful of its kind anywhere. I firmly believe EMV is poised for continued growth and success and I look forward to many years of collaborating further together in my new position at the Victoria Symphony. I will miss working daily with my extremely capable colleagues on the EMV Staff, EMV’s generous and effective Board, as well as with all of EMV’s donors and patrons. This transition will be made easier because I am remaining so close and I will do what I can to support the organization moving forward. EMV is forever going to feel like family.”

EMV has initiated a search for the recruitment of its next organizational leader. Matthew will help EMV transition into its new leadership and develop a succession plan to ensure the organization’s continued growth and health.

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## **ABOUT EARLY MUSIC VANCOUVER ([earlymusic.bc.ca](http://earlymusic.bc.ca))**

Founded in 1970, Early Music Vancouver (EMV) has a long-standing international reputation for the presentation, production and study of classical and traditional repertoires using “historically informed performance practices”. Historically informed performance is based on two key aspects: the application of the stylistic and technical aspects of performance, known as performance practice; and the use of period instruments which may be reproductions of historical instruments that were in use at the time of the original composition. EMV now offers the second largest program of its type in North America, presenting and producing an average of 40- 50 concerts per year featuring internationally-renowned local, regional and guest artists. EMV has a Main Season that runs through the Fall, Winter, and Spring as well as a growing annual summer festival that was re-branded as the Vancouver Bach Festival in 2016. It also has substantial education and outreach programmes including the Baroque Orchestra Mentorship Programme and BC Scholarship Programme.

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