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NEWS RELEASE

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LA JOLLA CHAMBER MUSIC SOCIETY ANNOUNCES SUMMERFEST ARTISTIC DIRECTORS DAVID FINCKEL AND WU HAN TO DEPART

La Jolla, CA, September 7, 2000 — The La Jolla Chamber Music Society, presenter of SummerFest La Jolla, and Artistic Directors David Finckel and Wu Han have agreed to conclude Mr. Finckel's and Ms. Wu Han's tenure as artistic directors, effective immediately.

Neale Perl, Executive Director of the Society, stated last night, "This action will permit David and Wu Han to pursue other opportunities and will enable the society to begin the search for new artistic leadership for SummerFest 2001. We commend David and Wu Han for their outstanding contribution to SummerFest over the past three years." Perl added, "We have already identified a number of distinguished candidates who would welcome the opportunity to help shape our continued growth, and we look forward to announcing our selection in the near future."

David Finckel and Wu Han were only the second artistic directors in the 15-year history of SummerFest La Jolla, succeeding founding director Heiichiro Ohyama. Since their appointment in 1997, Finckel and Wu Han have revitalized SummerFest, helped transform La Jolla into a major cultural destination, and garnered international recognition for the Festival's innovative programming designed to maximize interaction among composers, artists and audiences.

More than a concert series, the annual three-week festival held in August offers chamber music concerts featuring a wide range of repertoire, composer and visual artist residencies, a public art exhibition, multi-disciplinary lectures, round table discussions, pre-concert talks, family concerts and the annual Workshop at SummerFest. Last month, a review in The Los Angeles Times declared, "A finer collection of American chamber music players will not be found anywhere else this summer."

SUMMERFEST'S EVOLUTION

During David Finckel and Wu Han's tenure, the Festival expanded its Composers-in-Residence program and inaugurated an extensive commissioning plan. Bruce Adolphe, Augusta Read Thomas and Joan Tower were the appointed Composers of SummerFest 2000. In addition, SummerFest launched two new components, the Encounters and Explorations series. The Encounters is a popular series of round table discussions exploring current issues relating to music and the arts. The panels bring together an array of music industry professionals, performing artists and members of the international press. The Explorations is one aspect of the collaboration with the University Art Gallery, University of California, San Diego (UCSD). The series examines the parallels and connections, relationships and resonances between music and art, literature, and the sciences. Another distinctive element of SummerFest is the Workshop at SummerFest, initiated in 1997. Each summer, young chamber ensembles of outstanding merit are chosen by international audition, and invited to explore masterworks of the chamber music repertoire and a selection of new music under the tutelage of SummerFest's distinguished guest artists.

SummerFest was the subject of a special 4-part Public Television documentary (WNVT-TV) titled "Festival America." Concerts are also broadcast on National Public Radio, Boston's WGBH Radio and the BBC. The Festival was selected this summer by The Association of Performing Arts Presenters (APAP) as the host site for its prominent event — The Classical Connections Seminar.

The La Jolla Chamber Music Society, incorporated in 1968, and its predecessor organization, the La Jolla Musical Arts Society, founded in 1941 by Nikolai Sokoloff, have a long and distinguished tradition of presenting the world's finest chamber music and performing artists. Guest artists over the years have included Jascha Heifetz, Gregor Piatigorsky, Jean-Pierre Rampal, Daniel Barenboim, Pinchas Zukerman, Jessye Norman, the Juilliard and Guarneri String Quartets, and many leading American and European symphony orchestras.

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