



PIEDMONT WIND SYMPHONY

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Dr. Mark A. Norman Named New Music Director of Piedmont Wind Symphony

Veteran conductor and wind music scholar to helm the Piedmont's professional wind ensemble

Winston-Salem, NC (April 18, 2021) – The Board of Directors of the Piedmont Wind Symphony has engaged Dr. Mark A. Norman as the organization's next Music Director. Dr. Norman has been working closely with the Piedmont Wind Symphony on a recording project since late 2020, and officially began the new role on February 26, 2021. He is also the Director of Instrumental Ensembles and a conducting faculty artist at the University of North Carolina School of the Arts.

The search for the new Music Director was led by Mark Vaders, the current President & CEO. “As one of the only professional wind ensembles in the U.S., we had a very specific wish list—someone with deep knowledge of wind repertoire, a deft hand at the baton, and a stirring passion that will inspire our musicians and patrons to new heights. Mark Norman is the perfect fit, a world-class conductor and educator whose creative leadership will carry the Piedmont Wind Symphony out of the pandemic and on to our next stage of evolution.”



Mark A. Norman has enjoyed a career spanning over thirty years as a conductor and tuba performer. Raised in North Carolina, Mark has lived and worked throughout the United States and has also guest conducted internationally. He is the former music director of the American Wind Orchestra and Riverside Wind Symphony, and has been on the conducting faculties of the University of Michigan, the University of Wisconsin–Milwaukee, UNC Greensboro, Washburn University, and Towson University. He has recorded with the Fountain City Brass Band, American Wind Orchestra, and the UNCG Wind Ensemble.

“I am honored and excited to be the next music director for the Piedmont Wind Symphony! Having been a conductor and performer with professional wind bands for over thirty years, I am thrilled to work with such fantastic musicians and staff. We have so much to offer the Piedmont arts community, and I look forward to sharing our ideas and plans for the future,” shared Mark.

Ensembles under Mark's direction have performed at the World Association of Symphonic Bands and Ensembles conference, regional College Band Director National Association, and the state music educators' conferences in North Carolina, Virginia, Maryland, and Kansas. He is also the winner of several solo and chamber music competitions, and was nominated for both a Virginia Governor's Award in Arts Excellence as well as a Grammy Award for co-producing the UNCG Wind Ensemble recording of “Fireworks.”

Mark is also a former tuba instrumentalist with the esteemed U.S. Navy Band in Washington, DC, and was principal tuba with the Georgetown Symphony, McLean Orchestra, and the Mount Vernon Chamber Symphony, all of which gained him critical acclaim as a soloist.

(END)

For additional information, please contact:

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