



PRESS ADVISORY: May 17, 2017

**NETWORK FOR NEW MUSIC ARTISTIC DIRECTOR, LINDA REICHERT, TO STEP DOWN JULY 2018**

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**PHILADELPHIA:** At the close of Network for New Music’s 2018 season, Artistic Director and co-founder Linda Reichert will step down from that position following 33 years of leadership exemplified by sustained growth and award-winning successes. The organization will continue its mission of commissioning, producing and presenting new works by living composers at all stages of their careers.

“I am so proud of what Network for New Music has accomplished over the past 33 years, and grateful to have been part of a process we’ve promoted that invites the community of artists, audience members, and Philadelphia and national cultural institutions into the creative dialog. The journey I’ve taken with the Network board, staff, composers and ensemble musicians over the years has been a wonderful adventure. Although I’m stepping down, I’m confident that the board, staff and ensemble musicians will help a new Artistic Director to maintain the integrity of the mission while moving forward in imaginative and innovative ways. Network’s mission remains as vital as when I first co-founded the group; our absolute commitment to artistic excellence in commissioning, programming, and performance — along with our ongoing attention to organizational sustainability — are core values that continue to establish Network as a leader in the field of contemporary music,” stated Reichert.

Patricia Manley, who chairs the Network board of directors, announced “It is with deep gratitude that we acknowledge Linda Reichert’s dedicated and visionary leadership and hard work over the past three decades. While all of us are saddened that she has elected to leave the Artistic Directorship of Network for New Music, we are pleased that Linda is leaving the job in order to have time to pursue other interests. She and the Network ensemble musicians and composers have raised awareness of and support for new music that is recognized around the region and around the world.”

When co-founded in Philadelphia in 1984 by Linda Reichert – herself an aspiring composer and accomplished pianist - Network for New Music was created to be a place for composers “to write the compositions they always wanted to write, and hear their works performed,” said Reichert.

Over the ensuing decades, Network has achieved great success due in large measure to her tireless advocacy on behalf of composers and the field of contemporary music. Since its founding, Network:

- received ASCAP's Adventurous Programming Award (2001, First Prize);
- commissioned more than 138 new works from leading composers;
- performed more than 500 new works including many Philadelphia premieres;
- recorded 4 CDs for the Albany and Innova labels;
- collaborated with local colleges and universities to sponsor student composition readings, competitions and performances;
- provided educational outreach to local public, private and independent middle- and high-school music programs;
- has created and participated in numerous Philadelphia regional multi-disciplinary, cross-cultural collaborations.

In 2014, Network became one of the country's few chamber ensembles to raise funds for a dedicated, ongoing commissioning fund. As part of this 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary season year, Network created the **Network for New Music Commissioning Fund** to ensure the continuation of its legacy: to commission new works each season to present to Philadelphia audiences, and to give those works the highest level of artistic interpretation for which the Network ensemble is recognized by critics, composers and audiences alike.

The organization is planning a concert on April 29, 2018 that will honor Linda's fine work as Artistic Director and will feature ten new works commissioned from award-winning composers, all of whom have a long history with Network for New Music. Among the composers are four Pulitzer-Prize winners; three Pew Fellows; two Grammy nominees and a Grammy Award winner.

The Network board of directors is initiating a search to fill the position of Artistic Director. Further information about the 2017-2018 season, including the season finale concert **Notes of Thanks: Honoring the Legacy of Linda Reichert** and the Artistic Director search can be found at [www.networkfornewmusic.org](http://www.networkfornewmusic.org)