

All Classical Portland Launches 1st-of-its-Kind Challenge to Change America's Playlist

*Recording Inclusivity Initiative Tackles the Representation Gap of
Classical Composers Underrepresented on Today's Classical Music Airwaves*

PORTLAND, Ore. January 13, 2021 – All Classical Portland announced today the launch of its “Recording Inclusivity Initiative: Changing America’s Playlist” Challenge, in collaboration with the N M Bodecker Foundation and leading classical music record label Naxos Records. With core funding support from the Oregon Cultural Trust, the Recording Inclusivity Initiative (RII) will produce and release five new high-quality and broadcast-ready recordings of works by classical composers from underrepresented communities within its inaugural year. As part of the launch, All Classical Portland is also challenging listeners and the arts community to nominate composers. **Nominations will be accepted January 13 through February 12, 2021 at allclassical.org/recordinginclusivity.**

The Recording Inclusivity Initiative (RII) seeks to address the scarcity of high-quality recordings of classical music written by composers from communities that are underrepresented in the concert hall and on the classical music airwaves. This industry-wide gap is the result of pervasive inequities in classical music. While data is limited, examples cited in a 2016 study conducted by the League of American Orchestras show:

1. Fewer than 3% of musicians in American orchestras are African American
2. Fewer than 4% of musicians in American orchestras are Hispanic
3. Only 1 out of 10 musical directors in American orchestras are women

“As an industry, we have a responsibility to create the change that we seek for greater inclusivity and access. We are in a unique position to drive that change as an independent, community-minded radio station with international reach across multiple platforms,” said Suzanne Nance, All Classical Portland’s President & CEO. “The Recording Inclusivity Initiative is another step towards fulfilling our mission to build and sustain culturally vibrant communities around the arts. I’m extremely grateful to the RII panelists and our collaborators for helping to lead this effort to promote industry-wide change.”

5 Challenge Awardees
*will have their music
recorded, released,
and broadcast on
All Classical Portland.*

2 Living Composers
*will be offered a week-
long Composer-in-
Residency
to include in-studio
recording sessions and
a \$2,500 award.*

Tanya Cerda, Trustee of the N M Bodecker Foundation added: "The Recording Inclusivity Initiative is an important project that's very much aligned with the N M Bodecker Foundation's core values of creativity, belonging, and collaboration. We're honored to provide recording studio time and production support to the winning composers. We look forward to working with All Classical Portland, and with the participating artists, to celebrate and elevate representation in classical music."

The RII selection panel is chaired by All Classical Portland's [2020-2021 Artist in Residence Adam Eccleston](#). The panel will select five compositions (each up to 30 minutes in length) to be performed by professional musicians at the N M Bodecker Foundation in recording sessions overseen by Creative Director Chris Funk (member of the indie rock band The Decemberists). The recording process will begin as early as April 2021, and the recordings will be released and distributed by Naxos Records starting in the Fall of 2021. Of the challenge awardees, two contemporary composers will be offered a week-long Composer-in-Residency that will include in-studio creative recording sessions and a \$2,500 award.

This panel also includes musicians from the regional arts community and national industry leaders. The recordings created through RII will be added to the station's regular playlists, reaching 250,000 weekly listeners across the Pacific Northwest and millions worldwide, and digitally distributed worldwide by the record label Naxos Records.

These new recordings will be made available to radio stations across the country along with All Classical Portland's "how-to" kit for stations to create their own regional recording initiative.

For more information and to nominate composers please visit:
allclassical.org/recordinginclusivity

PRESS CONTACT:

Arianna Avena
All Classical Portland Marketing Manager
arianna@allclassical.org
503-943-5828

All Classical Portland is Portland, Oregon's classical radio station. Established in 1983, All Classical Portland's mission is to advance knowledge of and appreciation for classical music; to build and sustain culturally vibrant local and global communities around this art form; to reflect the spirit of the Pacific Northwest; and to foster integrity, quality, and innovation in all that we do. All Classical Portland streams worldwide at allclassical.org and broadcasts on KQAC 89.9 in Portland and Vancouver; KQOC 88.1 in Newport and Lincoln City; KQHR 88.1 in Hood River and The Dalles; KQHR 96.3 in the Gorge; KQMI 88.9 in Manzanita; 95.7 FM in Corvallis; and KSLC 90.3 in McMinnville. In 2019, All Classical Portland launched a second channel: The International Children's Arts Network (icanradio.org). Through its special programming, produced for children ages 0-12 and featuring music and literature from around the world, ICAN promotes cross-cultural awareness and fosters emotional intelligence through the arts.



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The N M Bodecker Foundation provides creative communities with an extraordinary and energetic gathering place for workshops, mentoring, and collaboration. Working with professional artists, musicians, writers and educators, the Foundation's FREE, multi-disciplinary workshops are designed to empower creative youth, including those from traditionally underserved communities, to imagine and achieve their artistic, educational, and professional dreams. Learn more at www.bodeckerfound.org or follow us [@bodeckerfound](#).



Naxos Records is the world's leading classical music label as measured by the number of new recordings it releases and the depth and breadth of its catalogue. Naxos was founded in 1987 by Klaus Heymann, a German-born entrepreneur based in Hong Kong. Under his continuing stewardship, Naxos has developed from being known primarily as a budget label focusing on standard repertoire into a global music group comprising a raft of downloading and streaming platforms, a significant catalogue of multimedia products, a vast international logistics network, a recording engineering arm, a publications division, and a licensing department. Naxos Records is part of the Naxos Music Group. www.naxosmusicgroup.com.



Footnote: In 2016, The League of American Orchestras released multiple diversity studies: "Racial/Ethnic and Gender Diversity in the Orchestra Field" is referenced in the above press release.

<https://americanorchestras.org/knowledge-research-innovation/diversity-studies.html>.