



Award-Winning Musician Named Artistic Director Designate of Stratford Summer Music

Stratford, ON – Mark Fewer, Canadian violinist and Juno award winner, has been named Artistic Director Designate of Stratford Summer Music (SSM). The announcement was made by Marcel van Hulle, Chair of the Stratford Arts Foundation and Stratford Summer Music. Mr. Fewer's appointment as Artistic Director Designate begins on July 1. He becomes Artistic Director on October 1, 2018.

Mr. Fewer, born in Newfoundland, received his musical training at the University of Toronto and has studied with Jose-Luis Garcia in London and Ferenc Rados at the Ferenc Liszt Academy in Budapest. He has held many different positions over the last decade in the music industry: Artistic Director of the Scotia Festival of Music in Halifax (2004-2009), Artist in Residence at Stanford University [2014-2015], founding Artistic Director of the SweetWater Music Festival in Owen Sound [from 2004], concertmaster of the Vancouver Symphony (2004-2008) and Associate Professor at the Schulich School of Music, McGill University in Montreal (2007-2018). In 2012, Mr. Fewer won a Juno award for his collaboration with jazz great Phil Dwyer on the album, *Changing Seasons*.

Mr. Fewer said of his new position, *"I am both honoured and delighted to be joining the vibrant team that is Stratford Summer Music as Artistic Director. There has never been a better time to be involved in music and SSM encompasses virtually all of its many facets and expressions. I look forward to building on John Miller's visionary leadership of the past 18 years and to continuing to make Stratford a destination for fine music lovers everywhere."*

Marcel van Hulle, Chair of the Stratford Arts Foundation, the parent organisation of Stratford Summer Music, *remarked "We are thrilled to welcome Mark Fewer as Artistic Director Designate for Stratford Summer Music. Mark brings us a wealth of personal musical talent. He will be uniquely positioned to build upon our broad artistic programming and successfully shape our futures seasons."*

Mary E. Hofstetter C.M., Chair of the Search Committee for the next Stratford Summer Music Artistic Director *noted, "Following a Canada-wide search, the Search Committee had the privilege of interviewing a number of remarkable candidates. At the conclusion of an intensive process, Mark Fewer was our unanimous choice for recommendation to the Board of Directors. A musician of renown, an accomplished arts leader, a great teacher, and a man of inspiring creative vision, Mark is superbly qualified to leverage and build on the success of SSM."*

SSM Founder and current Artistic Producer, John A. Miller, said *“Mark Fewer is a distinguished Canadian violinist and music leader, well-known beyond our own borders. I look forward to his assuming the leadership baton for the 2019 season at Summer Music and wish him great successes in the fresh directions and growth he will bring to the music festival.”*

John A. Miller announced that he will be stepping down at the conclusion of the 2018 season. Mr. Miller will then be known as Founder and Artistic Director Emeritus of SSM.

About Stratford Summer Music

Stratford Summer Music is an annual multi-week music festival in indoor and outdoor venues throughout downtown Stratford. With an artistic vision to produce, to the highest standards possible, a program of diverse and exciting musical performances by Canadian and international artists and to provide the widest possible range of musical genres on its stages, Stratford Summer Music offers audiences a standard of musical excellence and experiences difficult to find outside large urban centres.

Stratford Summer Music 2018

July 16th to August 26th

Website: <https://stratfordsummermusic.ca>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/StratfordMusic>

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