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Stratford Summer Music Appoints New Executive Director

The **Board of Directors of Stratford Summer Music (SSM)** is thrilled to announce the appointment of **Crystal L. Spicer** as its new Executive Director effective November 13th, 2023.

Ms. Spicer brings with her over twenty years of production experience in the performing arts across multiple genres including music, dance and theatre. From her early career days with Canada's Royal Winnipeg Ballet and Regina's Globe Theatre, to the commissioning of the Isabel Bader Centre for the Performing Arts in Kingston, to eight years as Technical Director, English Theatre at the National Arts Centre in Ottawa, to most recently managing production for the Calgary Philharmonic Orchestra, Ms. Spicer has demonstrated an incredible dedication and a passion for working in the arts.

Ms. Spicer's appointment marks a return to Stratford and to Stratford Summer Music. She previously managed production at SSM for 3 seasons before heading to the National Arts Centre. "It is a homecoming of sorts for Crystal, whose wife is from Stratford. We're delighted to benefit from her extensive experience in administration, people and financial management to guide Stratford Summer Music into its 24th season and beyond, in partnership with **Artistic Director, Mark Fewer**," says **SSM Board Chair, Jean Anne McLeod**.

"Crystal's strong understanding of the artistic and production processes, along with her administrative and financial skills are a perfect combination to contribute to SSM's continued success. I'm looking forward to partnering with her as we plan our upcoming seasons of bringing a rich variety of music to our dedicated and appreciative Stratford audiences," says **Mark Fewer**.

"Crystal knows Stratford and Stratford Summer Music and is looking forward to further developing SSM's strong relationships within the community and to increasing our profile and partnerships with other arts organizations. SSM is fortunate to have her to steer the organization operationally and to bring her enthusiasm for music and excellence in administration and production to our wonderful organization and community," added **SSM Vice-Chair Jeremy Wreford**.

Ms. Spicer succeeds Kendra Fry who is moving on to focus full-time on her Church Repurposing consulting practice.

Background - SSM and ED Role

Stratford Summer Music stages an annual summer music festival of diverse musical experiences for both regional and wider audiences, to celebrate music and to enhance the reputation of the Stratford region as an exceptional home for all the arts.

Responsible directly to the Board of Directors and working closely as a partner with the Artistic Director, who develops the programming and special events for each season, the Executive Director is the senior administrative officer of the organization, generally responsible for the music festival's financial, administrative, office management, personnel, marketing and promotional affairs.

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