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RENO PHIL WELCOMES NINE NEW BOARD MEMBERS

RENO, Nev. (Aug. 1, 2016)— The Reno Philharmonic Association, northern Nevada's largest performing arts organization, welcomes nine new members to its board of directors. Susan Foltz, Heidi Foster, Mercedes de la Garza, Michael Hillerby, John McCall, Jacey Prupas, Walt Smith, Mehmet Tosun, Ph.D, and Patrick Woodard, MD join the existing 29 board members.

Sue Foltz previously held the position of Medical Diagnostics Senior Executive at Abbot Laboratories prior to retiring in March 2013. Foltz serves on the Board of Directors for JW House in Santa Clara, an organization dedicated to keeping families together during medical crises.

Heidi Foster is a wealth advisor and investment manager with American Wealth Management. She has been recognized by the Reno Gazette-Journal and the Reno-Tahoe Young Professionals Network as a Twenty Under Forty award recipient and is involved in several other professional organizations and charities.

Prior to opening her own practices, **Mercedes de la Garza** worked with prestigious architectural firms in Spain, Nigeria, San Antonio, Texas and California. She is a noted publisher and has received many awards including the 2010 Excellence in Design award from the American Institute of Architecture. De la Garza serves on several local community service organizations and is the Commissioner for the City of Reno's Historic Resources.

Michael Hillerby is the director and manager of legislative affairs at Hillerby & Associates in Reno. As Chief of Staff for former Nevada governor Ken Guin, Hillerby served on a variety of state committees and is currently a trustee and vice-chair of the Western States Art Federation, sits on the Nevada Commission for Cultural Affairs and sings with the Reno Phil chorus.

John McCall, currently serving as treasurer for the Tahoe Rim Trail Association, holds degrees from Massachusetts Institute of Technology, University of California Berkley and St. Mary's College in Moraga, California. He and his wife are previous board members of the Nevada Opera.

Jacey Prupas is a partner with Snell & Wilmer and is a graduate of Santa Clara School of Law. She is the founder and contributor to the Prupas Annual Alumni Scholarship benefitting Galena High School seniors. She played violin through high school and college, playing with the Reno Phil Youth Orchestra.

Walt Smith was the senior director of channel development at Plantronics until his retirement in early 2016. Throughout his career, Smith achieved high honors including Microsoft's 2009

Alliance Manager of the Year and the 2010 OEM Device Manufacturing Partner of the Year awards. He is a long-time donor and supporter of the Reno Phil.

Mehmet Serkan Tosun, Ph.D., is a tenured professor at the University of Nevada, Reno and is currently the chair of the College of Business' Department of Economics. Tosun holds positions as research fellow and professor with Oxford University in England, the Institute for the Study of Labor in Bonn, Germany and the Economic Research Forum for Arab Countries. He sings in the Reno Phil chorus.

Patrick Woodard, MD, is a physician and hospitalist at Renown Health and the University of Nevada, Reno School of Medicine. Woodard is a former member of Reno Phil Youth Symphony Orchestra and is currently a section violinist with both the Reno Chamber Orchestra and the Reno Phil.

For more information on the Reno Phil, visit [online](#) or call 775-323-6393.

About the Reno Phil

The [Reno Phil](#) is northern Nevada's largest performing arts organization. In its 48th season, the orchestra, led by music director Laura Jackson, is comprised of more than 80 professional musicians who perform more than 30 concerts annually throughout the Reno-Tahoe region. Musicians of the professional orchestra, youth orchestras, various ensembles and education programs offer more than 60 performances each year, playing to more than 50,000 people. The flagship of the Reno Phil is its concert series offering six classic music series, *Classix*, performed on Sunday afternoons and Tuesday evenings at the Pioneer Center for the Performing Arts. To learn more about the Reno Philharmonic and its events, and to discover all that the Reno Phil has to offer, visit [RENOPHIL.COM](#).

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