



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**June 7, 2023**

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**ATLANTA SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA NAMES PRINCIPAL FLUTE CHRISTINA SMITH  
RECIPIENT OF THE MABEL DORN REEDER HONORARY CHAIR**

ATLANTA – The Atlanta Symphony Orchestra (ASO) has named Principal Flute Christina Smith as the new recipient of **The Mabel Dorn Reeder Honorary Chair**. The Chair, which was first announced in 2011, was established with a \$1.85 million endowment gift from the Mabel Dorn Reeder Foundation.

"I am deeply honored to receive this award," said Ms. Smith. "Mrs. Reeder made such an impact on Atlanta's arts community and on the Orchestra, and I am grateful to be chosen to hold the chair bearing her name."

The Mabel Dorn Reeder Honorary Chair is awarded, based on merit, for a period of five years to an ASO musician who demonstrates excellence in musical artistry, leadership, collegiality, and community engagement. The Chair may be granted to any Principal, tenured Orchestra member, including those who already occupy a named chair. Recipients will be awarded a one-time \$10,000 stipend at the start of their five-year term as the honoree, to be used for professional development.

"As a long-time resident of Atlanta, Mrs. Reeder understood the value a fine orchestra can have to a city and its community," Brian Frank, former co-trustee of the Mabel Dorn Reeder Foundation, said. "This Chair remains an exceptional tribute to Mrs. Reeder's love of music and her generous long-time support of the Woodruff Arts Center and the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra. We are delighted for her to be remembered in this meaningful way, and for this award celebrating artistic excellence and leadership to be part of Mrs. Reeder's legacy for Atlanta."

Smith has been Principal Flute at the ASO since 1991, winning the seat while still studying at the Curtis Institute of Music. As an educator, she is on the faculty at Emory University, has an active private studio, and teaches masterclasses across the country. She will follow Principal Clarinet Laura Ardan, who held the Chair for the past five years, and Concertmaster David Coucheron, who held the Chair for the five years prior to Ardan.

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“The Mabel Dorn Reeder Chair is one of the ways we can recognize and honor one of the incredible musicians in the Orchestra, and Christina Smith is a perfect example of all that this Chair entails,” said ASO Executive Director Jennifer Barlament. “Christina has a deep commitment to the ASO, shows outstanding leadership within her section and the Orchestra as a whole, and is an excellent mentor of future generations of musicians. She is an exceptional musician and contributes to the flute and orchestra community on a national level. All of us at the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra feel fortunate to have her as a colleague, and we are thrilled and grateful to the Mabel Dorn Reeder Foundation to be able to honor her in this way.”

### **About Christina Smith**

Christina Smith is one of the most sought-after flutists in the country as an orchestral player, soloist, chamber musician, and teacher. She has performed as principal flutist of the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra since 1991, where she holds the Jill Hertz Principal Flute chair, endowed in perpetuity. Ms. Smith’s flute solos can be heard on over 40 ASO recordings. She has also appeared with the orchestra numerous times as concerto soloist, in works of Mozart, Vivaldi, Ibert, Rodrigo, Nielsen, Jolivet, Bernstein, and Christopher Rouse. Ms. Smith performed the southeastern U.S. premiere of Finnish composer Kaija Saariaho’s “L’aile du songe,” with Robert Spano conducting.

After graduating from Interlochen Arts Academy, Ms. Smith studied at the Curtis Institute of Music as a pupil of the legendary Julius Baker. She has appeared as guest principal flutist with many major orchestras including the Chicago Symphony, LA Philharmonic, the San Francisco Symphony, and the Pittsburgh Symphony. She earned critical acclaim while performing on the latter ensemble’s European Tour. Ms. Smith was also featured at the National Flute Association's Gala Concerto Night at the 2019 convention in Salt Lake City.

A prolific and accomplished chamber musician, Ms. Smith has helped launch a pre-concert chamber music series featuring ASO musicians. The series began its first official season in 2011-12 and is now thriving both financially and artistically. Ms. Smith’s longtime collaboration with ASO principal harpist Elisabeth Remy Johnson resulted in the release of a duet album entitled “Encantamiento.” She currently performs chamber music with the Merian Ensemble, a group of female ASO musicians who champion the work of female composers.

Equally passionate about teaching, Ms. Smith serves on the faculty at Emory University, as well as teaching privately. Ms. Smith performs exclusively on vintage Powell flutes, and she is proud to be a Powell artist.

### **About the Mabel Dorn Reeder Foundation**

Mabel Dorn Reeder (1908-2007) grew up in the small town of McCormick, S.C., and was passionate about making a better world for future generations. The daughter of a prominent businessman and state senator, Reeder graduated from Greenville Women's College and attended graduate school at Columbia University in New York. She then taught elementary school for several years before marrying Thomas H. Reeder and moving to Atlanta, Ga., where she lived until her death at 98. Today, her passions for music, education, photography, animals, travel and history live on through the work of the Mabel Dorn Reeder Foundation.

In 2010, the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra received a generous endowment gift from the Mabel Dorn Reeder Foundation to support the Orchestra and establish the Mabel Dorn Reeder Honorary Chair.

### **About the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra**

The Atlanta Symphony Orchestra (ASO) is in its 78th season with Nathalie Stutzmann as only the fifth Music Director in the history of the Orchestra, and the only woman to ever hold the position. Maestro Stutzmann will continue the ASO's mission of bringing new and exciting composers and guest artists to Atlanta.

The ASO is one of the leading orchestras in the United States, performing more than 150 concerts each year from the Delta Classical, Movies in Concert, Family Concert, and Coca-Cola Holiday series, as well as the Atlanta Symphony Hall LIVE concerts and many community and education concerts.

In addition, the ASO performs with the 200+ voice, all-volunteer ASO Chorus, originally founded in 1970 by Robert Shaw, and currently under the Direction of Norman Mackenzie. The chorus was featured on nine of the ASO's Grammy-award winning recordings.

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