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**THE ATLANTA SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA WELCOMES
ELENA DUBINETS AS CHIEF ARTISTIC OFFICER**

ATLANTA – The Atlanta Symphony Orchestra (ASO) has named noted musicologist, author and artistic innovator Elena Dubinets to its newly created position of Chief Artistic Officer. Dubinets most recently held the position of Vice President of Artistic Planning and Creative Projects at the Seattle Symphony (SSO), where she has served since 2003. Dubinets will begin her new role with the ASO in August 2019.

As Chief Artistic Officer, Dubinets will serve as the Orchestra's chief curator, building a unified mission-focused plan for all of the Orchestra's programming, including the Delta Classical Series, Family Series, Concerts for Young People, Atlanta Symphony Youth Orchestra, Talent Development Program, and community engagement activities. In addition, she will lead the institution's efforts to create new streams of programming aimed at increasing the breadth and diversity of the Orchestra's repertoire, artists and audience, and broadening the Orchestra's footprint in the Metro Atlanta community.

During Dubinets' tenure, the Seattle Symphony received numerous awards, including five Grammy® Awards and multiple nominations, and in 2018 was named *Gramophone Magazine*'s inaugural "Orchestra of the Year." Dubinets was lauded for her work at the SSO, *The Seattle Times* calling her "one of the key figures in the city's cultural landscape, shaping the vision of the SSO." In 2018, she was named one of *Musical America*'s Professionals of the Year. During her tenure, the Seattle Symphony commissioned 60 compositions by a broad roster of composers, including John Luther Adams (*Become Ocean* and *Beyond Desert*), Giya Kancheli, Anna Clyne, Agata Zubel, Du Yun, David Lang, Mason Bates and Nico Muhly.

In addition to the traditional classical season programming, Elena curated a number of innovative concepts linking the SSO's programming to community identity and current events, including the *Sonic Evolution* series reflecting on the contributions of Seattle's most famous popular musicians (Sir Mix-A-Lot, Jimi Hendrix, Nirvana and others); the annual *Celebrate Asia* programs featuring contemporary music from or inspired by Asian culture; and the *Music Beyond Borders* concert featuring music from Middle Eastern countries affected by the January 2017 travel ban. As a staff representative, Dubinets led two Music Director searches in Seattle, resulting in the appointments of Ludovic Morlot and Thomas Dausgaard. Prior to joining the Seattle Symphony, Dubinets served as Artistic Advisor for the Seattle Chamber Players and she has been an Affiliate Assistant Professor at the University of Washington since 2014.

As a musicologist, Dubinets has published four books and more than one hundred articles in Russian, American and British general and scholarly publications, has presented her work at numerous international scholarly meetings, and has received stipends and fellowships from the NEH and Paul Sacher Stiftung in Basel, Switzerland. Her fifth book, entitled "*Zagranitsa: Russian Composers Abroad*," a look at historical and sociological aspects of professional musical culture during the "waves" of emigration from Russia and the former USSR from the end of the 19th century to present day, will be released in 2020 by the Indiana University Press. In addition to serving as Affiliate Assistant Professor at the University of Washington since 2014, Dubinets has been visiting professor at San Jose University (Costa Rica), the Moscow Tchaikovsky Conservatory (Russia) and the National Music Academy (Bulgaria). Her areas of study are music of the 21st Century, emigre composers who fled totalitarian regimes, and American mavericks. Elena received M.A. and Ph.D. degrees in musicology and music theory from the Moscow State Tchaikovsky Conservatory in Russia and has lived in the U.S. since 1996.

"We are thrilled to welcome Elena Dubinets, a scholar and professional of the highest levels artistically and creatively, to the leadership team of the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra. I have long admired her work in Seattle, which has been among the most creative and transformative in the orchestral field in the United States today. In this exciting time of change, opportunity and rejuvenation for the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra, with the celebration of our 75th Anniversary, Maestro Spano's final season as Music Director and the appointment of a new Music Director, I cannot imagine a more exciting leader to welcome to our community," said Atlanta Symphony Orchestra Executive Director Jennifer Barlament. "In the new role of Chief Artistic Officer, Elena will have the opportunity to work with the leadership team, including Robert Spano and Donald Runnicles, as well as our new Music Director, to synthesize both our grassroots and grassstops efforts to shape the musical culture of the city of Atlanta, inventing transformative orchestral experiences for longtime music lovers as well as newcomers. We are thrilled to welcome her to the team."

"Accepting the position of Chief Artistic Officer at the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra is my great honor. Many years ago, as a student at the Moscow Tchaikovsky Conservatory in Russia, I grew up listening to the ASO's recordings and I am overjoyed to realize that I will be able to contribute to the success of this amazing organization," said Dubinets. "In the 16 years spent at the Seattle Symphony, I have helped to catapult it onto the national and global stage, and I am looking forward to applying my knowledge and expertise to curating the Atlanta Symphony's industry-leading artistic, learning and community endeavors. I see my goal as ensuring artistic creativity, driving programmatic integration and increasing the social impact of this fabulous orchestra, while helping to reinforce classical music as a relevant and dynamic art form, enriching our ever-changing cultural landscape. With curiosity, risk-taking and collaboration we will together be connecting our audiences to transformational live music experiences centered in our community and making the Atlanta Symphony an exciting and accessible place of wonder and discovery. I am grateful for the opportunity to join its family."

Dubinets will fill the roles previously held by Evans Mirageas, Vice President of Artistic Planning and Holly Hudak, Senior Director of Education.

About the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra

Celebrating its 75th season, the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra continues to affirm its position as one of America's leading orchestras with excellent live performances, renowned guest artist features and engaging education initiatives. As a cornerstone for artistic development in the Southeast, the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra performs a full schedule of more than 150 concerts, including educational and community concerts, each year for a combined audience of more than a quarter million people.

About Elena Dubinets

Elena Dubinets, Ph. D., is the Chief Artistic Officer for the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra. Previously, she served at the Seattle Symphony as Vice President of Artistic Planning and Creative Projects from 2007-2019 and Music Research Specialist from 2003-2007. [More](#)

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