

COLBURN SCHOOL HONORS ERIC WHITACRE AND MAX H. GLUCK FOUNDATION WITH THE RICHARD D. COLBURN AWARD

(Friday, July 24, 2020, Los Angeles) – On Sunday, July 19, 2020, the Colburn School honored composer Eric Whitacre and the Max H. Gluck Foundation with the Richard D. Colburn award, for their exemplary achievements and contributions to the worlds of classical music and the performing arts. The award was presented by Colburn School President and CEO Sel Kardan during a virtual reception preceding *The Way Forward*, a private online event that replaced the traditional gala concert with an all-encompassing experience that connected the School's resilient artistic community with a global audience.

"It is a special privilege to recognize the important contributions of Eric Whitacre and the Max H. Gluck Foundation, especially during this time when connecting through the arts matters more than ever," said Kardan. "Both Eric and the Foundation have given so many people from Los Angeles and throughout the world the means to find hope and build communities through the power of music."

Grammy® Award-winning composer and conductor **Eric Whitacre** is one of today's most popular and performed composers. His works are programmed worldwide by orchestras and choirs, while his ground-breaking Virtual Choirs have united singers from more than 129 different countries. A graduate of the prestigious Juilliard School of Music, Eric served two terms as Artist-in-Residence with the Los Angeles Master Chorale concluding in 2020, following five years as Composer-in-Residence at the University of Cambridge, UK.

In high demand as guest conductor, he has drawn capacity audiences to concerts with the Minnesota Orchestra, Royal Philharmonic Orchestra, Netherlands Radio Choir, London Symphony Orchestra, Flemish Radio Choir, BBC Singers, and the New World Symphony. Eric has collaborated with legendary Hollywood composer Hans Zimmer and British pop icons Laura Mvula, Imogen Heap and Annie Lennox, also receiving major classical commissions for the BBC Proms, Minnesota Orchestra, Cincinnati Pops, Rundfunkchor Berlin, National Symphony Orchestra, The Tallis Scholars, Chanticleer, and The King's Singers.

The **Max H. Gluck Foundation**, a private family foundation, was established in 1982 by Maxwell and Muriel Gluck. The mission of the Foundation is to support programs that address the educational, health, cultural, and creative needs of the underserved.

The Gluck Foundation demonstrates resolve and care for performing arts education through grants made to the 24th Street Theater, Carnegie Hall, The Juilliard School, the Harmony Project, LA's Best After School Arts and Strings Program, the LA Opera, LA Phil, UCLA, Orange County School of the Arts, UC Riverside, among many others. For more than a

decade, The Gluck Foundation has been a transformational supporter of Colburn's Jumpstart (since 2015) and Summer Encounter programs (since 2008).

In addition, the Foundation supports other important institutions such as the Children's Hospital Los Angeles, the Los Angeles County Museum of Art, Boys and Girls Club of LA Harbor, and the Natural History Museum Mobile Museum Program.

The Way Forward featured Eric Whitacre's Virtual Choir 6: Sing Gently that brought together nearly 18,000 singers from 129 countries. Whitacre composed "Sing Gently" especially for these challenging times and the Virtual Choir 6 was made in collaboration with the Colburn School and the NAMM Foundation.

The Way Forward event also featured the world premiere of a new 45-minute film of the same name which brought together the global Colburn School community in virtual performances and interviews from around the world, from England and Spain, to Finland and Australia. All filming was done remotely under the guidance of director Hamid Shams, who wanted to showcase the talent, energy and passion of the Colburn School community like never before.

Film highlights included:

- Colburn faculty and conductor **Esa-Pekka Salonen** leading an ensemble of 14 Colburn School faculty, students and alumni in a performance of **Aaron Copland's *Fanfare for the Common Man***
- Soprano **Danielle de Niese** performing **George Frideric Handel's "Già nel seno,"** based on a fragment from Handel's *Lucrezia*
- A performance of **Felix Mendelssohn's Octet in E-flat Major, Op. 20** (IV. Presto) by the **Calidore String Quartet** and **Viano String Quartet**
- A dance and music performance of **Gabriel Fauré's *Après un rêve***, with pianist **Jean-Yves Thibaudet**, Colburn School's Artist-in-Residence
- Composer and pianist **Kris Bowers** joining students from Colburn School's Community School of Performing Arts for a performance of **Thelonius Monk's *Evidence***
- **Eric Whitacre's Virtual Choir 6: Sing Gently**

ABOUT COLBURN SCHOOL:

The Colburn School comprises four academic units united by a single philosophy: that all who desire to study music and dance should have access to top-level instruction.

Units of the School are:

- The diploma- and degree-granting Conservatory of Music, a preeminent training ground for professional musicians
- The Music Academy, a pre-college program preparing musicians to study at top conservatories
- The Trudl Zipper Dance Institute, a comprehensive dance program including the elite pre-professional Dance Academy
- The Community School of Performing Arts, offering a graded curriculum of private lessons and group instruction in music performance, appreciation, and theory for everyone, from the youngest children to adults

Together, these units provide performing arts instruction to more than 2,000 students from around the world, with a renowned artist faculty who serve as invaluable mentors guiding the students' artistic development.

Social Media

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