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Music from Angel Fire Pursues Partnership

Santa Fe, New Mexico -- Each year towns across Northern New Mexico play host to the Music from Angel Fire Summer Festival. Traveling between Angel Fire, Taos, Las Vegas and Raton, renowned musicians, including long-time favorite OPUS ONE, and student musicians treat classical music lovers to afternoons and evenings of works by Beethoven, Elgar, and Mozart and newer works by composers-in-residence who are supported by the festival.

Behind the scenes, Music from Angel Fire, under the leadership of Executive Director Elizabeth Harcombe, has been expanding their headquarters in Santa Fe, and exploring their organizational capacity with another performing arts group, Santa Fe Pro Musica. The ongoing relationship between the orchestral ensembles began innocently enough with Harcombe's introduction to Santa Fe Pro Musica's co-founder and Music Director Thomas O'Connor in January 2014. Harcombe and O'Connor soon discovered that their respective organizations served music enthusiasts in a similar way – by presenting and producing classical music performances to their audiences. However, neither their seasons, nor audiences, nor donors overlap to any great extent.

Seeing the possibility for a synergistic relationship, leadership from both Music from Angel Fire and Santa Fe Pro Musica created a three-year plan for working together and a joint committee to oversee the consideration of a more formal partnership at the end of that term. The two organizations began sharing office space in Santa Fe in 2014 as part of their transition. "Working side by side in 2014 and 2015 gave both organizations the opportunity to test out the relationship and make thoughtful decisions about the future. As we further develop our working relationship in 2016, we will take this same approach to ensure that the partnership enhances and creates a more robust environment for our work in the performing arts," says Harcombe.

Now in the second year of that plan, change is evident not only as Harcombe and O'Connor's organizations share an address but in their management personnel as well. In September, Harcombe became Executive Director for Santa Fe Pro Musica, while maintaining her executive directorship of Music from Angel Fire. Harcombe has further plans to bring staff onboard that will oversee communications, marketing, development, and box office operations for both entities.

Music from Angel Fire's Artistic Director Ida Kavafian and Santa Fe Pro Musica's Music Director O'Connor see opportunities to collaborate as well. In fact, shared programming resulted in OPUS ONE opening the season in both Angel Fire in August, and in Santa Fe in September. Even with closely aligned goals, each organization will maintain their artistic identity, something both Kavafian and O'Connor regard as paramount.

Now in its 33rd year, Music from Angel Fire's 2016 Summer Festival opens on July 19, 2016 at the Angel Fire Community Center. Led by Kavafian, the Festival program promises to delight and engage classical music lovers from Northern New Mexico and beyond.

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ABOUT MUSIC FROM ANGEL FIRE

Since 1984, the Music from Angel Fire Summer Festival has presented world-class concerts and educational events throughout northern New Mexico. Internationally renowned violinist Ida Kavafian, Artistic Director since 1985, invites the country's finest musicians, students and composers to perform during the three weeks of the festival. Music from Angel Fire annually reaches 9,000 attendees and performances are heard year-round on national radio stations and online through American Public Media's "Performance Today."

For more information about the 2016 Summer Festival visit www.musicfromangelfire.org