



## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## EVANSVILLE PHILHARMONIC BOARD RENEWS MUSIC DIRECTOR ROGER KALIA'S CONTRACT THROUGH 2029

**Evansville, Indiana** — The Evansville Philharmonic Board of Directors has signed a new three-year contract with Music Director Roger Kalia, extending his tenure from June 2026 through May 2029.

Board President Nicholas Gartner stated, *"I'm pleased to announce the renewal of our Music Director Roger Kalia's contract, reaffirming our shared commitment to artistic excellence. Further, Roger has demonstrated a strong dedication to the Orchestra's long-term vitality through his active engagement with our endowment and donors."*

Appointed in June 2020 as only the sixth Music Director since the Orchestra's founding in 1934, Kalia is concluding his sixth season with the Evansville Philharmonic and has become a resident of Evansville. During his tenure, he has led a period of artistic growth, innovation, and expanded community engagement. Guided by a dynamic artistic vision, Kalia has worked to balance major classics of the repertoire with cutting-edge contemporary music and lesser-known gems.

Under Kalia's leadership, many outreach initiatives have flourished including the New Traditions Series, which champions underrepresented composers with venues filled with diverse audience. He has expanded the Orchestra's presence beyond the Victory Theatre with performances at historic Bosse Field, the Evansville Wartime Museum, and the Philharmonic's first concert since the recent 2024 renovation of the St. Benedict Cathedral's pipe organ featuring local organist Robert Nicholls.

Kalia has launched major new initiatives including the Young Artist Composition Competition, collaborations with the University of Southern Indiana featuring semi-staged operas, and the creation of the *Inside the Music Podcast* with Bill Hemminger in partnership with WNIN Tri-State Public Media.

He has also continued to champion the music of living composers, presenting works by Gabriela Ortiz, Kenji Bunch, Stacy Garrop, Adam Schoenberg, and others, while elevating the Orchestra's profile through ambitious programming. Highlights have included Mahler's Symphony No. 5—the Orchestra's first performance of the work in nearly 30 years—Star Wars: A New Hope in Concert, which generated historic ticket sales, and Symphony Masala, the Philharmonic's first Bollywood-inspired concert, bringing together Indian dance and vocals in a city-wide celebration.

Through innovative programming and artistic leadership, Kalia continues to elevate the Evansville Philharmonic's reputation and strengthen its connection with audiences across the region. After signing the new contract, Music Director Kalia expressed, *"I am thrilled and honored to continue serving as Music Director of the Evansville Philharmonic Orchestra for another three years. It has been incredibly rewarding to see the orchestra grow and deepen its connection with the community over the past six years, and I'm excited to build on that momentum in the seasons ahead. We have incredible musicians, and it is a joy to collaborate and make music with them. I am deeply grateful to our Board and our loyal audience for their continued support and trust. It means a great deal to me and I'm excited for all that lies ahead."*

*"We're delighted that Music Director Roger Kalia will continue leading the Evansville Philharmonic Orchestra for another three years. His imaginative programming, celebrating diverse composers and a wide range of musical genres, reflects the orchestra's growing commitment to excellence, creativity and innovation, and diversity and inclusion."* states Evansville Philharmonic Executive Director Kimberly Bredemeier.

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### **About the Evansville Philharmonic Orchestra**

Under the continued leadership of Music Director and Conductor Roger Kalia, the Evansville Philharmonic Orchestra remains the largest non-profit performing arts institution in the Tri-State area with a commitment to artistic excellence, diverse and creative programming inside and outside its Historic Victory Theatre home, its engagement with communities throughout the state of Indiana and its ambitious approaches to music education, performance, and collaboration. In the decades since its founding in 1934, the EPO has presented a range of classical, Pops, family, diversity, and holiday programming to thousands of people each year.