



BREVARD MUSIC CENTER  
SUMMER INSTITUTE AND FESTIVAL

## NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
DATE: December 8, 2009

CONTACT:  
Kristine Fink McCreery, Communications Officer  
phone (828) 862-2112  
fax (828) 884-2036  
[kmccreery@brevardmusic.org](mailto:kmccreery@brevardmusic.org)

### New Board Leadership at the Brevard Music Center

(*Brevard, NC*) –The Brevard Music Center announces new Board of Trustee leadership and three new board members. These appointments, in the wake of the September retirement announcement of current President and CEO John Candler, will aid in the continuity and transition of Music Center leadership.

John Gardner of Pisgah Forest, NC, began a two-year term as Chair of the Brevard Music Center Board of Trustees. He is the President of the not-for-profit John N. Gardner Institute for Excellence in Undergraduate Education based in Brevard; and Senior Fellow and Distinguished Professor Emeritus, University of South Carolina. Gardner is widely respected for his leadership of a national and international movement, spanning nearly four decades, to improve undergraduate student learning, satisfaction and success, so as to increase student retention and graduation rates. He looks forward to drawing on his knowledge and experience from studying, visiting, advising and writing about hundreds of campuses, to partner with the community, his board colleagues, and the BMC faculty and staff to help move BMC to its next level of educational distinction.

"My wife, a musician and fellow higher educator, Betsy Barefoot, and I moved to Brevard ten years ago because it is the home of the Brevard Music Center," comments John Gardner. "It has not only met, but exceeded our highest expectations. I find myself humbled by trying to follow my predecessors, Board Chairs Doug Booth, Bob Dalton, Fred Dent, Jerusha Fadiel, and Mitchell Watson, and our esteemed and beloved retiring President, John Candler. I believe BMC can and will help lead Brevard out of the recession in 2010. We have a great responsibility to our entire community."

Chair-Elect Phillip Jerome, Owner and President of Jerome & Summey Insurance, will serve closely with Gardner, replacing Gardner as board chair in November 2011. Jerome, a native of Brevard, has long-time ties to the Music Center, his father and grandfather having served as trustees for many years. Jerome is active in the community, having been President of the Chamber of Commerce, Chairman of the Transylvania Regional Hospital Board, and serving on the United Community Bank and Hospital Health Systems Board.

“I consider it a privilege to be associated with Brevard Music Center,” said Phillip Jerome. “It is an honor to follow my grandfather and father, who together served over a 50-year span on previous boards of the Music Center. My grandfather served in the formative years with James Christian Pfohl, who brought this wonderful institution to western North Carolina. My father later served on the board during the expansion of its programs in the Henry Janiec years. Brevard Music Center is a wonderful asset for Brevard, Transylvania County and the region. I look forward to seeing it flourish as an integral part of this great community.”

The BMC Board of Trustees also welcomes three new members. George Cates of Memphis, TN was the Chairman and CEO of Mid-America Apartment Communities and is former Chair of the Memphis Symphony Board, and is a Trustee of the University of Tennessee. Thomas Bolton of Asheville is the President of Thomas C. Bolton & Co. and Past President of Mills River Plant Growers. He is President of Asheville Bravo Concerts and a Board Member of the Asheville Symphony Orchestra. Russell Newton, Jr. of Brevard (formerly Atlanta, GA) is an architect who has been on the Brevard Technical Review Committee, Downtown Master Plan Steering Committee, the Transylvania Arts Council and the Asheville Art Museum Building Committee.

"I am confident that these additions will bring to the current Board added insight and strength, and the election of Gardner and Jerome will provide continuity during the transition of executive leadership," said President John Candler. "The BMC Board has a history of hard work, support and passion for our mission to educate young musicians. We have been extremely fortunate to have trustees who willingly give of their time, talent and treasure, and who provide wise strategy, direction and governance to this institution. It is because of our trustees that BMC has achieved wide recognition as an educational institute and festival, and has achieved a balanced operating budget for thirty-one consecutive years."

The Brevard Music Center was founded by James Christian Pfohl in 1936. His vision to establish a music program for talented young people has since matured into one of this country's finest summer institutes and festivals for aspiring musicians. Nestled in the Blue Ridge Mountains of Western North Carolina, BMC welcomes to its 180-acre campus each year 400 students representing over 40 states and eight foreign countries. It has, as well, 65 distinguished faculty artists drawn from America's most prestigious conservatories, universities and orchestras. Each summer, the Center invites an array of celebrated guest artists to appear in performance with the students of BMC. BMC's unique learning environment—students living and working alongside faculty and guest artists—creates an unparalleled sense of community.

###

**For press inquiries, including photos and interview requests, please contact:**

Kristine Fink McCreery, Communications Officer  
Brevard Music Center, PO Box 312, Brevard, NC 28712  
(828) 862-2112 phone • (828) 884-2036 fax  
[kmccreery@brevardmusic.org](mailto:kmccreery@brevardmusic.org) • [www.brevardmusic.org](http://www.brevardmusic.org)