

## **Prince George's Philharmonic Announces New Music Director**

The Board of Directors of the Prince George's Philharmonic is pleased to announce the appointment of Jesus Manuel Berard as their next Music Director. Berard becomes the sixth conductor of the Philharmonic as it begins its 52<sup>nd</sup> season. He succeeds Charles Ellis, who passed away on New Year's Day 2016.

After learning of the appointment, Maestro Berard said:

"I am delighted, grateful and truly honored to have been chosen to be part of this wonderful, venerable organization and I very much look forward to doing great work together for a long time to come!"

The appointment comes after a search lasting more than a year. Seventy-one applicants were eventually narrowed to six finalists by the Search Committee. Each finalist led the orchestra through rehearsals and one concert. The Board of Directors were unanimous in their support of Maestro Berard.

Comments from orchestra members include:

"I was strongly impressed with the musical knowledge, conducting skills, and strengths of interpretation that Mr. Berard demonstrated."

"[Maestro Berard] has a wonderful sense for the music and is very personable."

Maestro Berard holds degrees from Columbia University and the New England Conservatory of Music. He resides in Maryland near Washington, DC, as well as in New York City and Eastern Long Island, New York. He was, most recently, Music Director with the DC Youth Orchestra Program. Previously, he was founder and artistic director of the Peconic Chamber Orchestra in the Hamptons (New York), and Music Director of the Chamber Players at Connecticut College and the Connecticut College Orchestra (New London), the American University Symphony Orchestra (Washington, DC), the Columbia University Chamber Orchestra and the Hofstra University Symphony Orchestra (New York), as well as others. Read more about Maestro Berard at <http://www.jesusmanuelberard.com>.

The Prince George's Philharmonic is a community orchestra based in Prince George's County, Maryland. It performs at least five concerts a season in various venues within Prince George's County. The new season begins on Saturday, October 7, 2017, at the Bowie Center for the Performing Arts in Bowie, Maryland.