

ROOSEVELT GRIFFIN Ed.D. TAKES ON EDUCATION AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT ROLE FOR ILLINOIS PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA

*Harvey Native and Award-Winning Music Educator to
Lead Education Efforts for Esteemed Orchestra*

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: JULY 28, 2023



Park Forest, IL – In March of 2023, Illinois Philharmonic Orchestra welcomed Roosevelt Griffin Ed. D. as a new member to the Board of Directors. Today, Griffin changes hats to assume the role of Education and Community Engagement Director for the orchestra.

He, along with Executive Director Christina Salerno, will lead the Marilyn Tannebaum Youth Music Education Institute.

Born and raised in Harvey, IL and an accomplished musician himself, Dr. Griffin spent much of his early life playing bass guitar, trombone, and tuba and was recognized as the top high school tubist in the state of Illinois by his senior year. His talents earned him the principal tubist position with the Suburban Youth Symphony Orchestra for multiple years. As a student, he was also a participant at the Birch Creek Orchestra Camp and was awarded a full scholarship to college to play with the Northern Illinois University Philharmonic Orchestra.

Educators around the globe have widely adopted Dr. Griffin's student-centered approach to music education. He maintains that a harmonious and unified classroom is just as essential to achieving musical excellence as technical proficiency, leading his groups to be showcased on stages nationwide.

Dr. Griffin's exemplary contributions to the field have earned him numerous awards and recognitions, including the 2014 Golden Apple Award for Excellence in Teaching and a street in his hometown of Harvey, IL, renamed "Roosevelt Griffin III Ave" in his honor. Most recently, he received the "2022 John LaPorta Jazz Educator of the Year" from the Jazz Education Network and Berkley College of Music, the "2022 Think Big Educator Award" from the Chicago Jazz Philharmonic, and the 2022-2023 "Dr. William P. Foster Community Development Award" from the Music Education Alliance.

Dr. Griffin's innovative pedagogy has been documented in several prominent academic publications, including *Teaching with Poverty in Mind*, *Teaching Music Magazine*, *Downbeat Magazine*, *JazzEd Magazine*, and the co-authored books *Teaching Music through Performance: Beginning Jazz Ensembles* and *Rehearsing the Jazz Band*. Additionally, he was featured in an article entitled "Finding Strength in Everybody" in the April-May 2023 edition of the *Instrumentalist Magazine*.

“Throughout my 18 years in my hometown, I grew an understanding of the process of music education - an understanding that would allow my students to experience music in an impactful way and allow them to become examples for music programs throughout the country.”

Today, Dr. Griffin is an enthusiastic educator who is passionate about the development of communities through music education.

“I believe that music education, especially at primary and secondary schools when valued and supported, can truly transform the world. When students are presented with transformative experiences, they become transformed. They become the catalyst for true change. I have a unique set of skills and experiences that I plan to employ for many years to come, assisting with the unification and strengthening of humanity.”

In addition to his work with IPO, some of Griffin’s other current affiliations include (but are not limited to): Jazz Council / NAFME (National Association for Music Education), Education Committee / Jazz Education Network, Director of Ensembles at Chicago Jazz Philharmonic’s Jazz Academy and VanderCook College of Music’s Dyett Chair for Jazz Studies, Diversity and Inclusion.

To learn more about Griffin's work, visit www.rooseveltgriffin.com

ABOUT ILLINOIS PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA

The 2023/24 concert season marks the 46th for Illinois Philharmonic Orchestra. Under the leadership of Music Director Stilian Kirov and Christina Salerno (2022 Illinois Council of Orchestras ‘Executive Director of the Year), the mission of IPO is to provide compelling professional symphonic music, support music education, and expand audience awareness of musical excellence for the diverse communities of the greater Chicago region.

During the 2023/24 season, the three-time Illinois Council of Orchestras “Professional Orchestra of the Year” will perform several classical concerts at their home venue, Ozinga Chapel at Trinity Christian College in Palos Heights, IL. In addition, the orchestra performs a myriad of educational youth offerings each year via their educational arm - The Marilyn Tannebaum Educational Institute. IPO also performs an annual summer chamber series, IPO Summer @ Olympia Fields Country Club.

From its community orchestra roots in Park Forest, the 69-member orchestra has grown into a critically acclaimed professional regional orchestra. Illinois Philharmonic Orchestra is supported in part by the Gaylord and Dorothy Donnelly Foundation, Ozinga Foundation, the Walder Foundation, Gerhard Manufacturing and Design, and the Illinois Arts Council Agency. For more information, visit ipomusic.org.

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