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## **ROCO Appoints Eric Skelly Executive Director**

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HOUSTON — As it prepares to enter its 2<sup>nd</sup> decade of producing world-class chamber music performances in intimate, often innovative Houston venues, [River Oaks Chamber Orchestra](#) (ROCO) has appointed Eric Skelly as its new executive director. Eric Skelly comes to ROCO from Houston Public Media (HPM) where he worked in corporate support with nearly all of Houston's arts organizations.

"Joyful, generous and smart as a whip, I cannot think of anyone better than Eric Skelly to extend ROCO's connection into, throughout and beyond Houston" said ROCO Founder and Artistic Director Alecia Lawyer. "I personally am thrilled to have someone so perfectly Houston, but elegantly global, to take this founding organization to places none of us have even dreamt yet!"

Said ROCO Board Chairman Christopher Ross: "On behalf of the ROCO Board, I am delighted that Eric Skelly is joining ROCO as Executive Director. Eric brings with him an impressive career in the non-profit sector, most recently fifteen years as Senior Underwriting Account Executive with Houston Public Media. Eric's proven management skills and broad network of contacts among supporters of non-profit enterprises will enable ROCO to continue its growth as a suite of gifted Houston based, nationally recognized classical ensembles that enriches the quality of life in the region."

Skelly succeeds James Rowland in the executive director position; Rowland left to follow other opportunities for himself and his family in California.

A public relations internship at The San Antonio Festival in the mid-80s first brought Eric Skelly to Texas from his native Cincinnati, Ohio. While in San Antonio he made connections with Houston Grand Opera (HGO), and he joined the company in 1986 as a public relations assistant, staying at HGO for 8 ½ years, the last 2 ½ as public relations director. During his time at HGO, Eric programmed, produced and hosted opera programming for commercial classical station KRTS, occasionally subbing on-air for announcers as well, including then-KRTS-announcer Alecia Lawyer.

Eric Skelly directed public relations and provided creative marketing services for The Cleveland Orchestra and Houston's Society for the Performing Arts before joining Houston Public Radio -- now Houston Public Media -- in early 1999 as an underwriting account executive specializing in non-profits. Since then, he's written feature articles for Houston Grand Opera's Opera Cues magazine and Houston Public Media's website, as well as Playbill and Time Out New York.

He remains an active member of Bering Memorial United Methodist's church council and chancel choir, and recently completed three years singing with The Houston Symphony Chorus.

### **About ROCO**

ROCO is a professional chamber orchestra of 40 all-star musicians, distinguished guest conductors and dynamic composers who come together from all over the world to present engaging performances of classical and original compositions. Founded in 2005 by oboist, Alecia Lawyer, ROCO is *the most fun you can have with serious music*.

ROCO performances to come include:

- "Mutual Affection – Conductorless!" February 13<sup>th</sup> at Grace Presbyterian Church and February 14<sup>th</sup> at St. John the Divine.
- "Six Degrees of Tolstoy" February 22<sup>nd</sup> at The Printing Museum.
- "The Little Prince" April 12<sup>th</sup> at Studio 101.

More at

[www.rocohouston.org](http://www.rocohouston.org)

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