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Beaver Island Cultural Arts Association
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Baroque on Beaver Festival Names New Concertmaster

Music Director Robert Nordling and the Beaver Island Cultural Arts Association are pleased to announce the selection of James Crawford as the Festival orchestra's new Concertmaster. Mr. Crawford is also the Concertmaster with the Grand Rapids Orchestra.

Reacting to his appointment Crawford said: "I am keenly interested in the Festival Orchestra and making it the best it can be."

Beaver Island Cultural Arts Association Chair Frank D'Andraia said: "It will be a pleasure to welcome James Crawford to this important position. He brings both talent and experience and will be an important part of our continued success in attracting music lovers from around the region to Beaver Island. We look forward to introducing him to our Festival audiences and to having him in the concertmaster chair when the Baroque on Beaver Festival opens on July 28, 2017."

The concertmaster is the link between the conductor and the rest of the orchestra. It's the second-highest position after the conductor. As the violinist with the highest "rank", the concertmaster sits in the first chair, next to the conductor's podium. The concertmaster leads the orchestra in its tuning prior to the concert, and customarily plays all of the violin solos within pieces.

James Crawford is a native of Charleston, SC, where he began violin studies at the age of seven. He made his first solo appearance with the Charleston Symphony at age ten. At age twelve, he was awarded a full scholarship to attend the North Carolina School of the Arts. Mr. Crawford then continued his musical studies at the Curtis (PA) Institute of Music.

In January of 1994 Crawford joined the Grand Rapids Symphony as Concertmaster. He came to Grand Rapids from North Carolina, where he was Concertmaster of the Western Piedmont Symphony and Associate Concertmaster of the Winston-Salem and Salisbury (NC) Symphonies. Some of Mr. Crawford's orchestral and chamber music experiences include performances and tours with the Gilmore (MI) Festival, New York Pops, Warner Brothers Symphony Orchestra, North Carolina Symphony, Charlotte Symphony, Curtis Symphony Orchestra, Gamper Contemporary (ME) Music Festival, and the Razoumovsky and Devos String Quartets. Other previously held positions include faculty member and Artist-in-Residence

with the Saugatuck (MI) Chamber Music Festival, and assistant faculty member of the Bowdoin (ME) Summer Music Festival.

Mr. Crawford was a First Prize winner in the National Foundation for Advancement in the Arts "ARTS" Competition, and recipient of the University of North Carolina School of the Arts Giannini Award. He was also a winner of the UNC's International Music Program Concerto Competition and was soloist on its European tour through Germany and Italy. In 1985, Mr. Crawford was a United States Presidential Scholar Finalist.

Crawford succeeds David Reimer as Concertmaster. Mr. Reimer will continue with the Festival Orchestra as Associate Concertmaster.

Mr. Crawford resides in Grand Rapids and is married to Grand Rapids Symphony Violinist Megan Reiter-Crawford. They have four children, Julia, Orion, Naomi and Kenji.

The Baroque on Beaver Festival celebrates its 16th consecutive season 2017. The Festival is the signature event of the Beaver Island Cultural Arts Association. The mission of the Beaver Island Cultural Arts Association, a 501-c-3 corporation, is "To serve the Beaver Island community by promoting and supporting the cultural arts, including the annual Baroque on Beaver Festival." For more information about BICAA and the Baroque Festival, call (888) 511-5189 or consult <http://bicaa.org/>.



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