

# CABRILLO FESTIVAL

OF CONTEMPORARY MUSIC  
Music Director + Conductor **Cristian Măcelaru**

March 31, 2020

**Dear Ellen,**

Cabrillo Festival distinguishes itself, not just by the music we play, but by the unique sense of intimacy and connection we create among our musicians, our audiences, our staff and volunteers. That sense of intimacy is at the core of who we are.

The current imperative for “social distancing” is exactly why Cristi, the Board of Directors, and staff believe it is necessary for us to cancel the 2020 Festival season. Even if we begin to emerge from this crisis in the coming weeks or months, the risk is far too high to accept. Because all our artists travel from across the country and the globe to stay in homes with members of our community, we are especially vulnerable; and, in turn, we feel a special sense of responsibility to safeguard those we hold most dear.

With help from our generous community, over many years Cabrillo Festival has built a reserve fund that can help sustain us through this crisis; but we will need your understanding and support to ensure our future. Knowing the incredible toll this pandemic is taking on those who make their living making music, the Festival will use our resources to provide *some* level of compensation to our orchestra, our artists, and production team, and will maintain

our commitment to our devoted staff. Those will be our priorities.

We will move forward in the coming months to plan and build an even stronger more sustainable organization, and a spectacular 2021 season. In the absence of a 2020 Cabrillo Festival, we will devote ourselves to finding new ways to deliver on our mission and to support other community organizations who may need our talent and time on a pro bono basis. This is a time to come together—perhaps not physically, but in all other ways—to bolster one another.

Many of you, our loyal patrons, make your annual contributions now as we approach the Festival season. We recognize the stock market and economy are in flux, but we ask that if you are able to make your regular annual contribution, or a good portion thereof, to support and sustain the Cabrillo Festival and our community of artists, [please do so now](#). It will be used as the foundation of our meaningful work and incredible music making for years to come.

If you have already purchased subscription tickets, you may [click here](#) to review options for a full refund or to donate their value to the Festival. If you have questions or concerns, or just want to touch base, please feel free to reply to this email. We will respond as quickly as possible.

Cristi's programming for 2020 was so timely and meaningful. We were excited to welcome the artists and composers who were being newly introduced or returning; and bringing together the Cabrillo Festival Orchestra members with our community seemed more necessary for our spirits than ever before. We are grieving the loss of our annual gathering and the inspiration it brings, as we know you are. But we are also proud to prioritize everyone's safety and the long-term future of the Festival we all love so much.

We're so sorry to convey this sad news today and appreciate your continued support more than you can imagine.

Thank you for your understanding.

Stay healthy and write to us if you have questions or wish to stay in touch.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ellen". The letter "E" is large and loops back to the left. The "l" is tall and thin, and the "en" is written in a cursive style.

Ellen M. Primack  
Executive Director

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Liza". The letter "L" is very tall and thin, extending above the rest of the signature. The "iza" is written in a cursive style.

Liza Culick  
Board President