

PORTLAND BAROQUE ORCHESTRA

PORTLAND BAROQUE ORCHESTRA ANNOUNCES EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR HILARY BUTLER'S DEPARTURE AND LEADERSHIP TRANSITION

PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE 06/25/2026

PORTLAND, Ore., June 25, 2026 - Portland Baroque Orchestra (PBO) announces a leadership transition, as Executive Director Hilary Butler prepares to depart the organization on June 30, 2026.

Since joining PBO in April 2023, Butler has played a pivotal role in guiding the organization through a period of renewal and growth as the arts community emerged from the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic. Her leadership has been instrumental in revitalizing PBO's programming, expanding community engagement initiatives, and strengthening the organization's connection with audiences, artists, and supporters throughout the region.

"We are deeply grateful for Hilary's leadership, vision, and dedication," said Alan Brickley, Chair of the Board of Directors. "She has led with integrity, intelligence, and unfailing good humor, managing our finances, donor relationships, and the organization's place in the Portland arts community with great skill. She has left PBO with a solid foundation on which to build, and while she will be sorely missed, we are excited for her as she embarks on what comes next."

During her tenure, she led PBO through the negotiation of its first collective bargaining agreement with the American Federation of Musicians, Local 99, and the launch of Portland Baroque Voices, the organization's resident professional vocal ensemble, which debuted in 2025.

She also played a central role in founding Portland Arts Leaders, a coalition of nearly 90 arts organizations across the Portland metro area, and shepherded PBO through post-pandemic financial stabilization, strengthening the foundation for the organization's long-term sustainability.

"It has been an extraordinary privilege to serve Portland Baroque Orchestra," said Butler. "The administrative staff, musicians, donors, volunteers, and audience members who make up this community are truly special, and I am so grateful to have worked alongside them. I am proud of what we've accomplished together over the past three years, and I am glad to be staying in Portland, where I will continue to cheer on PBO's future success."

To ensure continuity and organizational stability, the Board of Directors has appointed Director of Operations Andrea Hess as Interim Executive Director, effective July 1. Hess brings more than 23 years of institutional knowledge and deep relationships across every aspect of PBO's operations, and the organization is in exceptionally capable hands during this period. Butler will remain available in a support role through August 2026 as the organization moves forward under Hess's leadership.

The search for PBO's next Executive Director is well underway. A hiring committee has been formed, and PBO is actively engaging search partners to welcome new leadership by early 2027. "While we are saying goodbye to Hilary as our Executive Director, we are not saying goodbye to her," said Brickley. "She is not going far, and she will always be part of the PBO family. We wish her every success in what comes next."



Hilary Butler, Outgoing Executive Director



Andrea Hess, Interim Executive Director

CONTACT US:

 503-222-6000

 krystal@pbo.org

PORTLAND BAROQUE ORCHESTRA



About Portland Baroque Orchestra

For more than forty years, Portland Baroque Orchestra has reigned as the Pacific Northwest's premier period ensemble, expertly reimagining the music of the Baroque and Early Classical periods with passion and excellence in intimate venues. Founded in 1984, PBO is a jewel amongst Oregon's arts organizations, celebrated for its masterful fusion of rich musical history and innovative artistry in every program. Specializing in historically inspired performance, the orchestra also explores music beyond the Baroque, performing on period instruments or replicas with extraordinary artistry and spontaneity.



PBO audiences enjoy the rich textures of the Baroque counterparts of modern instruments, including violins with gut strings and flutes made of wood and bone, in harmony with historical rarities such as the theorbo and harpsichord. In December 2022, PBO appointed the dynamic Julian Perkins as Artistic Director following the retirement of Monica Huggett. Join PBO to travel back in time and savor the uniquely delicate and jubilant sounds of the orchestra as it was first conceived and experienced!



CONTACT US:

 503-222-6000

 krystal@pbo.org