



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

THE CORPORATION OF MASSEY HALL AND ROY THOMSON HALL APPOINTS JESSE KUMAGAI AS PRESIDENT AND CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER



Photo Credit: Jag Gundu / Massey Hall & Roy Thomson Hall

(TORONTO – January 30, 2020) – The Board of Governors of the Corporation of Massey Hall and Roy Thomson Hall is pleased to announce the appointment of Jesse Kumagai to the position of President and Chief Executive Officer, effective February 26, 2020.

“We’re so proud that after an extensive international search, we found the very best candidate for this role was not only a Canadian and a Torontonians, but an integral member of our current management team,” said Eileen Costello, Board Chair. “Jesse’s authentic passion, knowledge, and connections in the broader music community are outstanding, while his vision and leadership will position us for growth and success when we reopen Massey Hall and for the years ahead in both Massey and Roy Thomson halls.”

Mr. Kumagai succeeds Interim President & CEO, Thomas C. MacMillan who will assist with the transition and take on the role of Special Advisor to the Corporation. In this role, Mr. MacMillan will continue to serve as a member of the Massey Hall Building Committee and Co-Chair of the Massey Hall Campaign Cabinet.

“On behalf of the Board of Governors, I want to express our deep gratitude and appreciation to Tom MacMillan,” added Costello. “Tom stepped into the role of Interim President & CEO following the sudden loss of Deane Cameron in May of 2019. Tom agreed without hesitation and lent his steady and caring hand to the organization at the most challenging moment in our history. We will be forever grateful for his leadership and generosity. We are also thrilled Tom has agreed to continue to play an important role in the Massey Hall Revitalization moving forward.”

“Since joining the organization in 2003, these halls and the incredible people who pour their hearts into every show have become like family to me. I can’t imagine a greater honour than to be trusted with the responsibility of leading this profoundly talented team into the most exciting period in our history,” said Jesse Kumagai. “As we invest more in artists, audiences, and our iconic venues over the coming years, we will continue to honour our rich history and increase our impact in the community.”

Mr. Kumagai’s appointment comes at a pivotal moment for the Corporation. With the Massey Hall Revitalization underway, the National Historic Site will soon offer incredible opportunities for expanded and enhanced programming, introducing new performance spaces and forward-thinking amenities for artists and audiences. In addition, artist development initiatives and education and community outreach activities will expand in both halls. Roy Thomson Hall hosts the leading artists of today while providing a home for an ever-expanding range of Toronto’s premiere arts and entertainment from the Toronto International Film Festival to the world-renowned Toronto Symphony Orchestra.

“Jesse Kumagai has been a steadfast advocate for the musical arts in Toronto for many years, and has been one of the TSO’s closest and most valued partners,” said Matthew Loden, Chief Executive Officer, Toronto Symphony Orchestra. “He has a collaborative and generous approach to his work, and we are delighted to be able to continue working with such a strong leader.”

Mr. Kumagai’s unwavering passion for Canadian music is exemplified by his volunteer commitments with organizations supporting and celebrating our nation’s incredible talent and culture including the Canadian Live Music Association, Polaris Music Prize, Unison Benevolent Fund, Toronto Music Advisory Council, Music Advisory Committee of the Province of Ontario, and the JUNO Awards.

“Jesse Kumagai has the history of Massey Hall and Roy Thomson Hall running through his veins,” says Riley O’Connor, Chairman, Live Nation Canada. “He works for the success of these venues with inspired leadership and creativity which serves the community.”

ABOUT THE CORPORATION OF MASSEY HALL & ROY THOMSON HALL:

The Corporation of Massey Hall and Roy Thomson Hall is a not-for-profit charitable organization operating two of Canada’s premier concert halls. Showcasing the world’s greatest performers in all disciplines, the two halls are also prominent venues for diverse activities in the business and entertainment district of downtown Toronto. The Corporation’s mission is to provide an internationally renowned entertainment centre to host the world’s top performers and events; to provide public space for the cultural and corporate communities of the Greater Toronto Area; to support the development of Canadian talent; to increase and enhance its worldwide profile as a leader in the arts community through its professionalism and programming.

ABOUT THE MASSEY HALL REVITALIZATION PROJECT:

Massey Hall is currently undergoing the most significant renovation in its 125-year history. This Revitalization Project will protect and celebrate Massey Hall’s heritage and propel its magnificent legacy for artists and fans for another century and beyond. The project will restore and renew both the interior and exterior of this National Historic Site, improve patron amenities and accessibility, open two new music venues, and see the return of the original, 125 year-old stained glass windows. For more information, visit masseyhall.com.