

## San Antonio Symphony Appoints Corey Cowart as Executive Director



San Antonio Symphony has selected Corey Cowart as Executive Director, following an executive search process led by Arts Consulting Group (ACG). He will begin his tenure on January 1, 2019.

With more than a decade of experience in arts administration and institutional advancement, Mr. Cowart most recently served as Executive Director of the Amarillo Symphony. Joining in 2015, he worked with the board on a new strategic plan that expanded audience and donor bases, resulting in increased contributed income, earned revenue, and annual paid attendance. In addition to bringing significant artistic growth, Mr. Cowart established the Happy Holiday Pops concerts, commissioned major works from Amarillo Symphony's Composer-In-Residence Chris Rogerson, and incorporated a standalone nonprofit K-12 music competition into the organization's education initiatives.

Mr. Cowart began his career at the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra and later served as Vice President of Development for Minnesota Opera. A Houston native, he holds a bachelor of music from University of Houston and a master of music from Yale University.

In making the announcement, Board Chair Kathleen Weir Vale said, "On behalf of the San Antonio Symphony Board of Directors, I am delighted to welcome Corey Cowart as our permanent Executive Director. A seasoned arts management professional, Mr. Cowart's excellent skill set includes highly effective fundraising and marketing, sound fiscal management, and strong administrative leadership. Corey is an accomplished musician whose profound knowledge of the symphonic artform combines perfectly with his administrative expertise. We eagerly anticipate his leadership in driving our mission, which is to delight, inspire, and engage our entire community through excellent performance, education, and outreach."

"I am honored to have been selected the San Antonio Symphony's next Executive Director," said Mr. Cowart. "I look forward to working closely with Kathleen Weir Vale, [Music Director] Sebastian Lang-Lessing, the amazing musicians, Symphony management team, and board to strengthen and add resilience to an organization with such high artistic quality and history. My family and I are eager to make San Antonio our home and look forward to being part of such a rich community."

"Congratulations to Corey Cowart on his placement as San Antonio Symphony's Executive Director," said Dr. Bruce D. Thibodeau, ACG President. "We are confident that his vast experience creating dynamic change in the orchestra field will have positive impacts throughout San Antonio and Bexar County. We look forward to San Antonio Symphony's success as it embarks on its next chapter of artistic vitality and community service."