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STEVEN STUCKY APPOINTED CHAIR OF THE BOARD OF THE AMERICAN MUSIC CENTER

NEW POSITION BEGINS JULY 1, 2008

NEW YORK – Pulitzer-prize-winning American composer **Steven Stucky** will assume the role of **Chair of the Board** of the **American Music Center** beginning **July 1, 2008**. His term follows a period of exemplary leadership by Augusta Read Thomas who following the end of her term as chair will be Past-Chair for one year, then resume her position as a member of the board. In Stucky's new role at AMC, he will work hand in hand with Edward Yim, President of the Board, as well as with Chief Executive Officer Joanne Hubbard Cossa.

As both an active composer and a major spokesperson for new music in the United States, Steven Stucky is poised to represent the constituency that AMC serves, particularly its membership of over 2000 composers, new music performers, music industry professionals and organizations. Mr. Stucky commented that his first and main order of business is to "increase awareness and visibility for what AMC does. I want more people to know what we already do and focus on quality, service, and activism in our community." As board chair, Stucky will serve as AMC's primary representative and its public face, preside at AMC's annual meeting and awards ceremony, as well as at AMC Board meetings.

Stucky has much experience to bring to AMC. Through his advocacy efforts—serving as composer-in-residence at the Los Angeles Philharmonic for the past twenty years and as host for the New York Philharmonic's critically-acclaimed Hear and Now series—he has had a significant impact bi-coastally. And in his role as the Given Foundation Professor of Composition at Cornell University, he has been an important mentor to emerging composers for decades. Stucky's own compositions include the frequently performed string quartet *Nell'ombra nella luce* and the 2005 Pulitzer Prize winning Second Concerto for Orchestra, which was described in *The New York Times* as "an electrifying piece ... [that] stands apart from academic disputes about style and language, and strives for direct communication." This summer, the New York Philharmonic will perform his new orchestra work *Rhapsodies* throughout Europe and the Dallas Symphony will perform his *August 4, 1964*, in honor of the centennial of the birth of Lyndon B. Johnson.

The **American Music Center** is dedicated to building a national community of artists, organizations, and audiences creating, performing, and enjoying new American music. Since its founding in 1939 by composers Marion Bauer, Aaron Copland, Howard Hanson, Harrison Kerr, Otto Luening, and Quincy Porter, AMC has been a leader in providing field-wide *advocacy, support, and connection*. AMC advocates for the community through **NewMusicBox** (www.newmusicbox.org), its award-winning web magazine, and **CounterstreamRadio** (www.counterstreamradio.org), a 24-hour online station broadcasting music by a broad range of United States composers. AMC supports the community by making grants to composers and ensembles each year, and by offering professional development programs for artists. AMC connects the community with an array of information services designed to facilitate performances, including the **AMC Online Library**, a vast, searchable database of 45,000 works by American composers; publications compiling opportunities in new music and other information useful to industry professionals (at *Explore American Music* at www.amc.net); and benefits and services for nearly 2,500 members in all fifty states and around the world. For more information on the American Music Center and its activities, please go to www.amc.net.

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