



University of Connecticut
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For Immediate Release

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Hartford Conservatory Announces Collaboration with UConn

The University of Connecticut and the Hartford Conservatory recently approved a Statement of Collaboration to achieve the institutions' long-term goals. Dr. David G. Woods, Dean of UConn's School of Fine Arts, explained that "For the past year, the School of Fine Arts has worked with the Conservatory's administrators and Board of Directors in planning collaborative activities that will benefit both schools. This collaboration enables Conservatory students to plan courses and artistic experiences there that will prepare them for auditions at the School of Fine Arts. It also provides UConn an opportunity to suggest an alternative path to those students who need more preparation and more training before entering the university. Together, both schools can continue to provide the very best education in music and the arts."

Adolfo Canovi, Chair of Hartford Conservatory's Board of Trustees, notes that the agreement is a key component of the 125-year-old organization's strategic plan for sustainability. "During our frequent discussions with Dean Woods and other UConn staff, we were pleased to find that collaboration would support the mission and strategic objectives of both institutions. Both are committed to increasing our community's access to education and to future employment opportunities."

Founded in 1890 under the auspices of the Hartford Theological Seminary as a school for church musicians, the Hartford Conservatory was incorporated in 1908 as the independent Hartford School of Music. It assumed its current name in 1959 and has long welcomed a wide range of individuals seeking instruction in performing arts – from returning war veterans to newly arrived immigrants, from youth exploring new horizons to adults following lifetime passions.

Interim Executive Director Linn McGlade explains that today instruction is offered through two separate but complementary programs:

Diploma – a post-secondary school program providing focused training in performing arts. In addition to gaining self-confidence and technical skills, graduates are prepared for a variety of opportunities as professional performers, teachers, or technical specialists in such fields as recording arts. The program is accredited through the New England Association of Schools and Colleges and approved by the Connecticut Department of Higher Education.

Community – serving people of all ages and abilities from diverse social, racial and economic backgrounds who seek enrichment in the performing arts in a non-competitive environment. Students participate in private and/or group lessons provided by skilled teachers in dance and music, including voice, as well as a variety of instruments.

The Hartford Conservatory, located in Hartford's historic Asylum Hill neighborhood, provides under-served Hartford students with convenient access to arts education and enrichment programs that help address the diminishing availability of in-school instruction. With generous foundation support, more than 95% of these students are able to participate in tuition-free summer and school-year programs.

The collaboration with UConn will help enable Hartford students to use the resources of both institutions to successfully progress through the school system and graduate - enriched by active participation in the performing arts and motivated to explore the range of advanced educational opportunities available.

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