

SCHOOL OF PIANO TECHNOLOGY FOR THE BLIND APPOINTS CHERI MARTIN AS NEW EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

News Release from **School of Piano Technology for the Blind**

(February 9, 2015 - Vancouver, WA)

The School of Piano Technology for the Blind is pleased to announce the appointment of Cheri Martin as the School's new Executive Director. Under the direction of the Board of Directors, Martin will be responsible for oversight of all management, fiscal, fundraising, planning and educational activities of the School. Her key responsibility is providing leadership to ensure the School has the necessary financial resources to successfully fulfill its mission of preparing blind and visually impaired students from all over the world the skills to engage in successful careers as piano technicians.

Board Chair Kim Capeloto noted: "Finding the individual with the unique set of skills, experience, and interest in our mission is a challenge given the unique nature of our program. Cheri has the perfect balance of the qualities we were seeking and anyone who has had the good fortune to work with Cheri knows that she will bring the kind of passion and determination necessary to enrich the School's legacy. We are tremendously excited about having Cheri as our new Executive Director."

"I am so pleased and excited about the opportunity to serve the School as its new Executive Director," said Ms. Martin. "Although it has been an important part of our community since its founding in 1949, and has served students around the world as the only school of its kind, I don't believe the community is completely familiar with its importance or value. I am committed to raising the School's visibility and recognition as an asset for which we should be very proud. More importantly, working with its students will enable me to be a part of an educational program that truly changes lives."

Ms. Martin has served as Executive Director of the Parks Foundation of Clark County, Director of Alumni Relations and the Penguin Athletic Club for the Clark College Foundation, and Community Education Director for the Ridgefield School District. A graduate of Leadership Clark County, she has been recognized by the Council for Advancement and Support of Education with its Rising Star Award and by the Nonprofit Network of SW Washington with its Nonprofit Excellence in Impact Award. While this professional experience will be of tremendous benefit to the School, it is combined with her interest in music, as a pianist and former member of the Vancouver Symphony, for which she played the flute.

About the School of Piano Technology:

The School of Piano Technology for the Blind provides specialized quality education for blind and visually impaired individuals to enable these students to gain excellent skills as piano technicians and go on to successful careers and independent lives. The School is private and self-supporting. The staff earns a substantial share of the operating budget by tuning, repairing, and selling pianos in the local community. The School is licensed by the State of Washington as a technical school and is accredited by the Accrediting Commission of Career Schools and Colleges of Technology. To learn more visit www.PianoTuningSchool.org or call 360.693.1511.

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