



NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

LONGMONT SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA ANNOUNCES THREE SUPER CONDUCTOR CONTEST CANDIDATES

LONGMONT, CO, FEBRUARY 18, 2019 — The Longmont Symphony Orchestra (LSO) has announced three candidates who will participate in the **2019 Super Conductor Contest**, which runs from February 23 through May 11, 2019. The three candidates are **Scott Cook**, CEO for the Longmont Area Chamber of Commerce; **Dr. Janelle Laughlin**, a rheumatologist at UHealth's Longmont Clinic and Longs Peak Hospital; and **Ruth Waukau**, a retiree who serves on the Board of Directors of the Friends of the Longmont Senior Center.

The Super Conductor Contest is a fundraiser for the LSO. Each year, candidates from the Longmont area are nominated to compete for the Super Conductor title. This year's campaign will kick-off with the introduction of the three candidates at the LSO's February 23 concert at Vance Brand Civic Auditorium and will culminate at the season finale concert on May 11, also at Vance Brand. Both concerts start at 7:30 p.m. The candidate who collects the most 'votes,' through monetary donations, will be declared the 2019 Super Conductor winner and will conduct the orchestra on May 11. One dollar equals one vote. Voting ends on Friday, May 3 at 1 p.m. MT.

To support this fundraiser, donations can be made online at www.longmontsymphony.org. Donations can also be made by calling the LSO Office at 303-772-5796, or mailing a check (with the candidate's name identified) to Longmont Symphony Orchestra, Super Conductor Contest, PO Box 74, Longmont, CO 80502. Checks must be received by May 3 at 1 p.m.

About Scott Cook

Scott Cook has served as the CEO for the Longmont Area Chamber of Commerce since August of 2017. Before this position, Scott filled various roles at the Chamber for over a decade including Event & Program Director where he led a variety of community events including the Chamber's popular Unity in the Community event. Before returning to Longmont, Scott worked for Recycled Rubber Products of Illinois (RRPI), a tire recycling company in Chicago. It was there that he learned the "ins and outs" of running a small business. His experience at RRPI, coupled with his work after college in Missouri Senator John Ashcroft's office in Washington gave him a passion for small business and advocating for business interests. In 2008, with then Chamber CEO, Kathy Weber-Harding, he began the Chamber's Public Policy Committee, a committee that regularly reviews legislative bills and

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ballot questions to determine their impact on the local business community. Now, under his leadership, the Chamber is expanding not only its policy advocacy work but is creating new events and opportunities to expand and grow businesses in Longmont. One of his favorite things to do is spend time with his family. In the summer, he and family enjoy hikes in the Colorado Mountains. In his free time, Scott is an avid weightlifter and has competed in a few amateur shows. He also enjoys running, photography and music.

About Dr. Janelle Laughlin

Dr. Janelle Laughlin is a rheumatologist who cares for patients at UCHealth’s Longmont Clinic and Longs Peak Hospital. Much of her work includes caring for patients with osteoarthritis, rheumatoid arthritis, inflammatory diseases, gout and lupus. She has been serving the Longmont community as a provider for more than 10 years and believes her job is “to empower patients to take control of their disease and live a better life in a body that hurts.” She received her medical degree from Chicago Medical School in 2000 and served a residency and fellowship at the University of Chicago. Outside of the office, Dr. Laughlin enjoys running, skiing, singing, and gardening. She has three children, and this year is hosting an exchange student from Germany. She and her husband Stephan are kept busy driving to activities and watching their kids play sports as well as perform in theatrical productions, choir and band. In addition, she and Stephen are Aspen Dreamer Scholar Sponsors through the “I Have a Dream” Foundation in Boulder County and are founding members of the Longs Peak Hospital Foundation.

About Ruth Waukau

Ruth’s entire career was devoted to serving others. She has run a rural mental health clinic on an Indian reservation, worked as a social worker for disabled adults, served in the Peace Corps in the South Pacific, been a therapist on the geriatric team of a local community mental health center, and, finally, been a counselor, educator, and program developer at the Longmont Senior Center. Ruth now serves on the Board of Directors of the Friends of the Senior Center. Five years ago she retired—hoping to travel the world, to have fun in the mountains, to volunteer in the community, and to take every opportunity to bring gentle humor into people’s lives.

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*The Longmont Symphony Orchestra’s mission is to foster and promote the appreciation and understanding of symphonic music through performances and educational programs. The LSO presents multiple performances each year for 15,000+ people -- including a six-concert subscription series, a pair of children’s concerts for all St. Vrain Valley School District 5<sup>th</sup> graders, a Family Matinee Concert, three performances of the Nutcracker Ballet, a Candlelight Concert, a July 4<sup>th</sup> concert and three chamber orchestra concerts at the Longmont Museum -- and has an active education and outreach program. For more information, visit [www.longmontsymphony.org](http://www.longmontsymphony.org).*

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