

YELLOW BARN

music school & *festival*

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For Immediate Release

Catherine Stephan Appointed Managing Director of Yellow Barn Music School & Festival

Yellow Barn Music School & Festival is very pleased to announce the appointment of Catherine Stephan as Managing Director, effective April 2010.

Catherine brings over 13 years of non-profit organization management experience to her new role as Managing Director of the Yellow Barn Music School and Festival. Prior to joining Yellow Barn, Catherine was the Executive Director of the Boston Modern Orchestra Project. During her 10 years there she built BMOP from a start-up organization to the leading orchestra in the United States dedicated exclusively to commissioning, performing, and recording new music. She has produced over 70 concerts, two festivals of contemporary operas with Opera Boston, the Ditson Festival of Contemporary Music with the Institute of Contemporary Art/Boston, 30+ CDs, and most recently launched BMOP's record label, BMOP/sound. Passionate about cultivating community-based relationships among audiences and artists, Catherine created dozens of cross-genre events for BMOP including the trend-setting Club Concerts series in downtown Boston and the annual Hip-Hop Opera Project with Codman Academy Charter School in Dorchester, MA.

Invited to comment on her new position, Catherine said: "I was a participant at Yellow Barn when I took my first interview at the Longy School of Music, which quickly led to my position at BMOP. Somehow I am not entirely surprised to have come full circle and ended up back in Putney, and this time on the other side of the stage; there is something very 'Yellow Barn' about that." On the subject of Yellow Barn today, Catherine continued: "When Board President Viki Roth first called me, I had hoped to be reassured that Yellow Barn was still the nurturing, beautiful place that I remembered. I was not expecting to hear about the innovations that have taken place during the last 13 years: the Young Artist Program, the pods and the Greenwood School partnership, the artists' residencies – not to mention that there are over 500 applicants for an all-scholarship program! It quickly became clear that Yellow Barn was not only thriving but continuing its long tradition of thinking outside the box, and then I was hooked."

Upon Catherine's appointment, Seth Knopp, Yellow Barn's Artistic Director, remarked: "Catherine brings with her a rare combination of creative energy and

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the ability to harness it in purposeful and exciting ways. Yellow Barn is fortunate to be welcoming someone who has lived its experience and who understands its potential. I am absolutely thrilled to be working with her.”

Catherine holds a B.A. from Wellesley College and an Artist Diploma in Cello Performance from Brandeis University. She is a board member and Treasurer of Choral Arts New England and a hospice care volunteer. She has served on the grant-making panel of the Aaron Copland Fund for Music, and has been a guest lecturer at Boston University’s Arts Administration program.

About Yellow Barn

Yellow Barn is an internationally respected chamber music school and festival. Its principal activities are a five week summer chamber music festival/training program for young professional musicians, a 2 ½ week training program for high school instrumentalists and composers (Young Artists Program) and a year round series of artist residencies and workshops, all based in Putney, VT. The program is distinguished by Yellow Barn’s renowned faculty, innovative programming, and extraordinary participants who are selected on the basis of highly competitive nationwide auditions each spring. From its inception, Yellow Barn has been admired for its supportive and collegial environment. Building on that quality, this combination of faculty, programming and participants has brought the program wide acclaim. Participants and faculty alike are attracted to Yellow Barn as a place of artistic renewal and ongoing musical exploration.

In 2008, Yellow Barn completed the building of a new campus of 8 eco-friendly, music studios on the grounds of the Greenwood School in Putney, VT. This project marked the beginning of a partnership with the School, which includes Yellow Barn’s use of the Greenwood facilities during the summer season and the provision of classroom space and educational workshops to the school during the academic year.

For further information about Yellow Barn and the upcoming 2010 season, please visit the website: www.yellowbarn.org