



Meet the 125th Anniversary Gala Honorees Dr. Robert Blocker & Ms. Linda Koch Lorimer

Throughout the history of the NHSO, the symphony has had a strong partner in Yale University. In its early years the NHSO was closely tied to Yale, drawing its conductors from the School of Music faculty and serving on occasion as a laboratory for Yale composers and performers. The University also offered financial and organizational support. In 1901, to commemorate the university's bicentennial, Yale commissioned the construction of Woolsey Hall, which became the chief performance venue of the NHSO. To this day, our relationship remains strong and continues to reflect mutual respect and appreciation. As the NHSO celebrates our 125th anniversary, we remember that Yale School of Music also celebrates the 125th anniversary of its establishment. In recognition of this, and of our long held partnership, we are proud to announce our 2019 gala honorees: Robert Blocker, the Henry and Lucy Moses Dean of Music at Yale University and Linda Koch Lorimer, Yale's former vice president for global and strategic initiatives. As longtime, significant supporters of the Symphony and the greater New Haven community, we are thrilled to celebrate these exceptional honorees.

Robert Blocker has held the esteemed position of Dean of Music at Yale since 1995. An accomplished pianist who began his musical studies at the age of five, Robert performs professionally throughout the world. His engagements have included performances throughout the United States, Europe, Mexico, China, Korea, Thailand, and several Pacific Rim Countries. In 2006 Blocker was named honorary Professor of Piano at the Central Conservatory of Music in Beijing. In 2000, Steinway and Sons featured Robert Blocker in its film commemorating the tercentennial year of the piano along with Billy Joel, Van Cliburn and others. He appears regularly on national radio and television as both artist and commentator. Through his position as Dean of Music at Yale Robert is a voting member of the NHSO board of directors and has been with the symphony as it has grown and evolved over the past 23 years. During this time his dedication to furthering the impact of NHSO and enriching the arts in Greater New Haven has been unwavering.

Ms. Linda Koch Lorimer became Senior Counselor to the President & Provost of Yale in April 2015. Prior, she served as vice president at Yale in various roles for the last 22 years. She was Secretary of the University for 18 years and during her career at Yale, she started and led the Office of New Haven Affairs, the Office of International Affairs, and Yale's Online education initiative. She has been responsible over the years for a wide array of other administrative departments and has been instrumental in Yale's contributions to revitalization efforts of the city of New Haven. Ms. Lorimer was awarded the Order of Merit by the Government of Argentina in 2003 for advancing international education. She received the Sandra Day O'Connor Award by the American Bar Association for board excellence in 2008. She has received four honorary degrees for her efforts to advance women. She was inducted into the Connecticut Women's Hall of Fame in 2013 and is a member of the Connecticut Academy of Arts and Sciences.