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Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra Elects Mark F. Flaherty as Chair of the Board of Directors

West Mifflin native and longtime PSO leader succeeds Anthony L. Bucci, who concludes eight years as Chair and continues as a Board Officer in the new role of Past Chair



Mark F. Flaherty

PITTSBURGH, PA — The Board of Directors of the Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra (PSO) has elected **Mark F. Flaherty** as its Chair. Flaherty, an attorney and member of the PSO Board since 2018, was elected at the Board's Annual Meeting on September 22, 2026 and begins his three-year term October 1. He succeeds **Anthony L. "Tony" Bucci**, who concludes eight years as Chair and will remain a Board Officer in the newly created role of Past Chair, providing continuity through the transition.

Flaherty's relationship with the orchestra began long before the boardroom. Raised in West Mifflin, he worked as a musician until he entered law school, and his earliest memories of the PSO trace back to *Previn and the Pittsburgh*, the Emmy-nominated WQED-TV series that brought the orchestra and its guests into living rooms across the country.

"I remember seeing André Previn with Oscar Peterson and being immediately fascinated," said Flaherty. "My family wasn't musical, but they made sure that my brother and I were exposed to all kinds of music growing up. The fact that I had music in my life and was a performer from an early age was an important part of a well-rounded, rich life and education. I have no doubt that those experiences made me a better student and ultimately a better lawyer. Every kid that plays in a

school band or orchestra can be part of our city's future cultural landscape, as an audience member, supporter, or artist."

“This orchestra spans the globe, but it is Pittsburgh’s orchestra, and it is of vital importance to the economic and cultural life of our region,” Flaherty continued. “The PSO is at its best when the board, administration, and musicians communicate openly with one another, and I want to build on the healthy, open culture that already exists here, giving people the chance to take risks and keeping this a vital, vigorous, and growing organization.”

Flaherty first became involved with the PSO in 2016 through the Jack Heinz Society, later serving as its Vice Chair before his election to the Board of Directors in March 2018. He has served on the Board’s Executive Committee for eight years and has been an active member of many PSO board committees. He also served on the Principal Pops Conductor Search Committee, the COVID-19 Task Force, and is a longtime PSO subscriber.

“Mark has been part of the PSO family for a decade, and he knows this organization as well as anyone,” said **Melia Tourangeau, President & CEO of the Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra**. “He listens carefully, builds consensus, and brings a genuine warmth that musicians, staff, and board members trust. His commitment to our artistic excellence and to our reach into neighborhoods across the region is exactly what this moment calls for. I am deeply grateful to Tony for eight years of extraordinary leadership, and I’m delighted that he will continue alongside us as Past Chair.”

Bucci’s eight-year tenure as Chair included multiple foreign and domestic tours, oversight of the orchestra through the COVID shutdown, the extension of Manfred Honeck’s contract through 2033, and many other milestones for the PSO.

“Serving as Chair of this Board has been one of the great honors of my life,” said **Bucci**. “This orchestra belongs to Pittsburgh, and I’ve been privileged to help care for it alongside remarkable musicians, a dedicated staff, and a generous Board. I have complete faith in Mark. He loves this orchestra, he understands it from every angle, and he will lead it with both heart and good judgment. I look forward to supporting him in the years ahead.”

About Mark F. Flaherty

Mark F. Flaherty is co-founder of the Pittsburgh-based firm Flaherty & O’Hara, P.C., which grew into a national practice in alcoholic beverage law. Before retiring in 2025, he was among the country’s leading authorities in the field, advising clients across all phases of beverage alcohol licensing, enforcement, and promotion; serving as an expert witness in Pennsylvania license evaluation cases and as advisory counsel on revisions to the Pennsylvania Liquor Code; and speaking on liquor law before committees of the Pennsylvania House of Representatives.

Flaherty earned his B.A. in political science, magna cum laude, from the University of Pittsburgh in 1983 and his J.D., cum laude, from Suffolk University Law School in 1986. He was admitted to the Pennsylvania Bar and the U.S. District Court for the Western District of Pennsylvania in 1986, and to practice before the Supreme Court of the United States in 2002. He is a member of the Allegheny County, Pennsylvania, and American Bar Associations.

Beyond the PSO, Flaherty is past president and a current board member of Lawyers Concerned for Lawyers of Pennsylvania, an emeritus board director of Quantum Theatre, and a former board director of Chatham Baroque. He and his wife, Mary McKinney Flaherty, live in Pittsburgh's East End.

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