

April 23, 2025

TO: Members of the Board of Trustees

FROM: Anne D'Alleva, Ph.D.
Provost and Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs



RE: Appointment of Professor Louis Hanzlik to the Alice Murray Heilig Music Chair
in the School of Fine Arts

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Board of Trustees approve the appointment of Professor Louis Hanzlik to the Alice Murray Heilig Music Chair in the School of Fine Arts.

BACKGROUND:

The late Charles and Alice Heilig, and daughter Cheryl, were longstanding donors supporting faculty and students of the School of Fine Arts and UConn Health. Mr. Heilig was an emeritus member of the UConn Foundation Board, serving from 1987 to 1998, and received an honorary degree from the University of Connecticut in 1994. The Alice Murray Heilig Music Chair Fund at the UConn Foundation was established in November 2000 through the bequest intention of Charles E. Heilig, Jr., in memory of his wife, Alice Murray Heilig. In mid-2024 the bequest was realized, and the fund's principal attained the level consistent with the University's Named Gift Guidelines for an endowed Chair at the time of the original commitment.

The purpose of this Fund is to provide financial support for an endowed chair in the Music Department within the School of Fine Arts. The individual appointed to the Chair will be a recognized performer, scholar and teacher and will have made significant contributions to the field of music and shall be referred to as the Alice Murray Heilig Music Chair.

The appointment of Professor Louis Hanzlik follows the unanimous recommendations of Dean Deanna Fitzgerald, the Department Heads of Art & Art History, Digital Media & Design, and Dramatic Arts, and the Associate Dean of the School of Fine Arts. The appointment will be effective June 1, 2025, through May 31, 2030.

Professor Hanzlik holds a BM from the University of Iowa, an MM from the Juilliard School, and an Ed.D degree from Teachers College, Columbia University. He joined the UConn faculty in 2008, as Assistant Professor of Music; he was granted tenure and promoted to Associate Professor in 2013, and to Professor in 2020. In August 2024 he was appointed to a five-year term as Head of the Department of Music. He has enjoyed an outstanding career as a professional trumpeter, playing for many years with the world-renowned Orpheus Chamber Orchestra (for which he also currently serves as Artistic Director of Programming), as a member of the American Brass Quintet, and in other leading ensembles. He has performed on numerous recordings, including Wayne Shorter's album *Emanon*, which featured a collaboration with Orpheus and in 2019 received a Grammy Award for Best Instrumental Jazz Album.

As a scholar, Professor Hanzlik has published and presented widely, most notably on chamber music rehearsal and performance as a model for innovative democratic leadership; he and his colleagues in the Orpheus Chamber Orchestra, a group that has pioneered ensemble performance without a conductor, have shared their insights with IBM and other major corporations and institutions beyond the music sector. He has taught at the Juilliard School and the Aspen School as well as at UConn, and his students have secured placements in prestigious graduate programs and performing ensembles, as well as tenure-track positions in leading college music programs. At UConn he has performed important service at all levels of the institution, including the University Senate, Undergraduate Academic Program Review Committee, the Board of Trustees Honors & Awards Committee, as Chair of the Courses & Curriculum committee of the School of Fine Arts, as well as in many other capacities. He has thus made numerous significant contributions to the University and to the wider musical and educational professions.