

Mr. Constantine Dantoulis is included to the Board of Directors of Atlanta Strings Conservatory Inc. 501 c/3 Non-Profit

ATLANTA – May 23, 2014 - Atlanta Strings Conservatory, a nonprofit institution dedicated to the education and promotion of string music, announced today the inclusion of Mr. Constantine Dantoulis to its Board of Directors.

“Constantine Dantoulis has been instrumental from day one to the Conservatory as a volunteer and now as a board member. Constantine Dantoulis will bring invaluable Financial and Managerial expertise,” said Atlanta Strings Conservatory Founder and Chief Executive Officer Betul Soykan. “We need a strong Board to work on our mission; while we are accepting students at every level, we are also striving to provide scholarships: this provides an opportunity for selected young people with proven musical talents, but may be from economically underprivileged backgrounds, to master an instrument at the highest performance level with professional individual lessons.”

Atlanta Strings Conservatory has a dedicated recital hall located in its own building in downtown Atlanta close to Turner Field/Grant Park. It offers lessons of string instruments (Violin, Viola, Cello and Contrabass) and performances, at the highest level, tied to local community needs. Its goal is to allow incredibly talented and underprivileged youth to fully develop their talent; learn appreciation for string instruments and build a solid foundation for their future. Ms. Soykan is proud of her location. “You have to be in the inner city, you can’t teach the kids from the suburbs.”

Atlanta Strings Conservatory has initiated a campaign called “Pay to Play for Life” in which donations are linked directly to student scholarships. This way, the sponsor funds go straight to a student sponsorship for lessons. Soykan and her partners have dedicated their life’s work to complete the conservatory. Their mission has already found great support on the local community. In fact, Robert Beavers, a master restorer donated a fully restored vintage 1928 piano to the conservatory.

Mr. Constantine Dantoulis has over 20 years experience in international business, technology and business developments. He has served in key executive roles such as Financial and Strategy Officer, Vice President and Manager in Fortune 500 companies as well as start-ups. He is a graduate of Columbia University and City University of New York –Magna Cum Laude-. Constantine Dantoulis is fluent in 4 languages as conversant in several more. His profile can be found <https://www.linkedin.com/in/constantinedantoulis>

"After 20 years of teaching – five locally in Atlanta – we found a tremendous gap," Soykan said. "There are incredibly talented kids that have no chance of advancement due to the lack of private teaching. We seek to provide those kids with that opportunity to master an instrument while simultaneously developing their character and personality. We want them to use their musical gifts to progress in their art but at the same time develop amazing skills including hand-eye coordination, critical thinking and logical synthesis. These skills are all absolutely transferable to their broader education and life. We chose an urban setting, because that's where the most talented kids with the highest needs are."

The high quality Atlanta Strings Conservatory faculty is made up of experienced artist and pedagogues with Master and Doctorate in Music Performance degrees. These artists are acclaimed musicians with top honors and achievements, both nationally and internationally. All the instructors have performance degrees, an absolute essential element in order, and are not only qualified to have the virtuoso skills to play these instruments (usually a music education degree does not provide these skills) but also possess the talent to be able to teach. With this knowledge, they can offer those deep technical elements which will assist students to achieve their musical goals. The board members such Constantine Dantoulis will assist this effort. "I am honored to join such as wonderful self-started organization with youth and community mission" said Mr. Constantine Dantoulis.

The goal of the organization is to help young artists develop their talents and become the nation's leading performers in fine classical and popular musical venues. It also seeks to create the next generation of fine pedagogues who will pass on their talent in turn to educate the next generation. In parallel to musicality, the Atlanta Strings Conservatory strives to build their character; develop amazing problem solving skills and overall give them a sanctuary of musical teaching. The principle belief of the organization is that the only way to teach students high skills and techniques of these incredibly virtuous-challenging instruments can only be through highly qualified artists, who are current performers and well trained pedagogues.

For more information about the Atlanta Strings Conservatory, please call 404-403-9559, email atlantastringsconservatory@gmail.com or check out their website at www.atlantastrings.org.

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