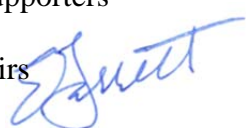


MEMORANDUM

To: USC Roski School of Fine Arts Faculty, Staff, Students, Alumni, and Supporters

From: Elizabeth Garrett, Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs 

Date: April 30, 2013

Subject: Appointment of Dr. Erica Muhl as Dean

On behalf of President Nikias, I am very pleased to announce the appointment of Professor Erica Muhl as the Dean of the USC Gayle Garner Roski School of Fine Arts, effective today.

The appointment of Dr. Muhl comes at an auspicious time for the Roski School. Situated in one of the cultural capitals of the Pacific Rim, and nurtured by the University's vibrant and growing artistic and scholarly community, the School is poised to ascend to the highest levels of creative work and recognition under the leadership of Dr. Muhl.

The strength of Dr. Muhl's artistic background, coupled with her proven skills in academic leadership, make her uniquely qualified to lead the Roski School during this exciting period of transformation and growth. Dr. Muhl has served as interim dean of the School since September 2012, after assisting the School in an advisory capacity beginning in January of 2012. In addition to a successful career as a performing and creative artist, she also brings to the position extensive experience across the arts and humanities in the areas of tenure, faculty development and mentoring, transformative faculty hires, strategic vision, and academic excellence.

Since September she has worked with faculty and staff to complete key components of the strategic planning process, including the recent academic review of the MFA and MA programs. She has begun development and implementation of curricular and programmatic changes designed to strengthen the School's foundation and create an optimal environment for artistic and academic growth, including several new international partnerships for educational and creative exchange. She has been involved in extensive fundraising activities on behalf of the School and the University, and has increased outreach to the Roski School and USC alumni constituencies.

Dr. Muhl's academic appointment has been as a professor of composition at the USC Thornton School of Music for 22 years. Her professional experience spans the fields of classical, contemporary and experimental music; film, video and broadcast media; opera and music theater; dance; and other forms of audio-visual collaboration. As a composer, her works have been commissioned and featured by leading ensembles, venues, and festivals worldwide. She has been the recipient of grants and awards from such organizations as the American Academy of Arts and Letters and the National Endowment for the Arts, and has received the prestigious Whitaker Foundation Commissioning Prize.

She has also been awarded residencies and fellowships from, among others, Italy's Civitella Ranieri Foundation, the Charles Ives Center for American Music, the Atlantic Center for the Arts, the American Academy in Rome, the Cultural Ministry of Venezuela, and the State of Saxony, Germany. Major critics have praised her work, describing it as "strong and poetic," "ravishingly beautiful," "haunting," even "fearless."

Dr. Muhl has a record of service to the University at many levels. She currently chairs the University Committee on Academic Review. Among other positions, she has previously served as associate dean for faculty affairs at the USC Thornton School of Music, administrative vice president of the faculty and a member of the University's Academic Senate Executive Board, chair of the Mellon Mentoring Forum, and as a member of the University Committee on Appointments, Promotions and Tenure.

Dean Muhl holds a Doctorate in Musical Arts from USC, and graduate certificates from the Accademia di Santa Cecilia in Rome and the Accademia Chigiana in Siena. She was also one of the last students of legendary teacher Nadia Boulanger at the American Conservatory in Paris.

I want to acknowledge the stellar work of the dean search advisory committee. Dr. Michael Quick and Dean Elizabeth Daley were instrumental in coordinating the search, as were the dedicated committee members. Many faculty, staff, students, alumni, and supporters of the Roski School participated in the process, and their insight and contributions were extremely valuable. The President and I particularly appreciate the counsel of Gayle Roski during this search, as well as her unwavering support for the School as it achieves even greater prominence and creative excellence.

Please join President Nikias and me in warmly congratulating Dr. Erica Muhl on her appointment as dean of the Roski School and in welcoming her in her new role. We all look forward to the continued pursuit of ever greater academic and artistic achievements.

cc: C. L. Max Nikias
Robert Abeles
Al Checcio
Todd Dickey
Tom Jackiewicz
Tom Sayles
Carol Mauch Amir