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For more information, contact:
Josh Espinoza, Marketing Manager
joshespinoza@allclassical.org or 503.802.9454

All Classical Portland's Recording Inclusivity Initiative Wins Current's National Contest, Signs with PARMA Recordings, and Partners with The Sorel Organization

The Recording Inclusivity Initiative enters its next phase with new partners, national recognition, and upcoming premieres by women and musicians of color.

PORTLAND, OREGON – [All Classical Portland](#), the Pacific Northwest's premiere 24-hour classical music radio station, launched the **Recording Inclusivity Initiative** (RII) in 2021 with the goal of addressing the lack of widely available classical music recordings by composers from underrepresented communities. On Tuesday, the Initiative was selected as the winner of **Current's** 2021 *Local that Works* contest! Building on this exciting national recognition, and as RII looks ahead to its next phase, All Classical Portland is thrilled to announce its new partners, **PARMA Recordings** and **The Sorel Organization**.

Out of over 100 public service media organizations from across the United States, the Recording Inclusivity Initiative was named the winner of the 2021 *Local that Works* contest. *Local that Works* recognizes excellence in media content, community engagement, and revenue initiatives, as a collaboration of Current.org and Public Media Futures and the Wyncote Foundation. RII was first announced as a top finalist in September 2021. Current announced the Recording Inclusivity Initiative as the winner at its virtual grand finale on Tuesday, November 9, 2021, following All Classical Portland's video presentation. [Watch the video on All Classical Portland's YouTube channel](#). The prize comes with a \$20,000 award, which the Initiative will leverage to help fund the next phase of the project: national expansion to peer stations around the country.

"We are thrilled about this honor from Current, Public Media Futures, the Wyncote Foundation, and this *Local that Works* contest," said All Classical Portland President & CEO **Suzanne Nance**. "Winning this contest provides meaningful recognition for the station, the Initiative, and the visionary voices which RII is helping to amplify over the airwaves. RII is one of the many ways All Classical Portland is working to make classical music more accessible to audiences, and to ensure that all listeners can hear themselves when they tune in. We strive to bring inspiration and joy to everyone who listens, and this project has been a way for us to continue to reflect the diverse and creative communities of the Pacific Northwest and beyond."

Also announced this week, All Classical Portland welcomes **PARMA Recordings** and its subsidiary **Navona Records** as the official record label for the Recording Inclusivity Initiative. "We are proud to partner with All Classical Portland on this vital, dynamic, and wide-ranging initiative," says **Bob Lord**, CEO of PARMA Recordings. "The potential for RII to fundamentally reshape the classical music playlist is real, and we are pleased to contribute to that mission."

Music released by the GRAMMY-winning team at PARMA Recordings has been featured everywhere from CBS to Carnegie Hall, Microsoft to the Musikverein, and even Nintendo and National Geographic. Since

2008, PARMA has produced over 1,000 commercial releases, and has been nominated in two GRAMMY Award ceremonies in 2020 and 2021. With a staff of dozens across the globe and thousands of musicians recording for projects, the label is committed to producing great music in a responsible way, and RII is proud to be its newest partner.

All Classical Portland is proud to also welcome **The Sorel Organization** to the Recording Inclusivity Initiative, who will help fund a national database of recordings for radio stations to easily access RII recordings and to upload their own recordings in the future. The database will allow stations to work together, and share recordings to expand playlists of classical music radio stations nationwide. The Sorel Organization's generous investment will enable All Classical Portland to create a database of RII recordings that will also include information about the composers and compositions. This financial support is vital to the national rollout of RII, and will help to stimulate exponential impact through the Initiative and its adoption by other radio stations across the United States.

"The Recording Inclusivity Initiative offers a creative and important way for classical stations across the country to solve a problem: if they don't have recordings of music by women and composers of color, they can't play them," states **Wende Persons**, Managing Director of The Sorel Organization. "We are proud to help support the national expansion of All Classical Portland's Recording Inclusivity Initiative for stations to be able to share recordings they make and expand classical playlists for listeners everywhere."

Established in 1996 by pianist Claudette Sorel and named for her parents, The Sorel Organization seeks to expand and build opportunities for women in the fields of conducting, composition, film scoring, performance, arts leadership, education, and beyond, making it a perfect partner for RII and All Classical Portland. Both organizations are committed to expanding the reach and inclusion of classical music for all.

ALL CLASSICAL PORTLAND'S RECORDING INCLUSIVITY INITIATIVE

A partnership with **N M Bodecker Foundation**, the Recording Inclusivity Initiative is committed to updating America's playlist by producing new, high-quality recordings of classical music by women and composers of color. From nearly 100 nominations, the Panel and Executive Advisors of the Recording Inclusivity Initiative selected five pieces to record: two posthumous works by **Mélanie Hélène Bonis** (1858-1937) and **Coleridge-Taylor Perkinson** (1932-2004), and new works by **Jasmine Barnes**, **Lauren McCall**, and **Keyla Orozco**. Each living composer was named a Composer-in-Residence by All Classical Portland and Bodecker Foundation. Throughout summer and fall of 2021, the composers traveled to Portland for a week-long residence where they recorded their original pieces at Bodecker Foundation's state-of-the-art facilities, engaged with local young musicians, conducted interviews, received a financial award, and were featured on All Classical Portland's weekly radio program *Club Mod*. Parma Recordings will release these five new recordings, which will receive their world premiere broadcast on All Classical Portland in 2022.

In the Recording Inclusivity Initiative's next phase, All Classical Portland will issue a national challenge to radio stations across the United States to launch their own regional branch of the project. The station will provide a how-to kit based on lessons learned from its inaugural season, including grant-writing recommendations, legal contracts, marketing materials, and more. Prior to the formal challenge, 11 stations have already expressed serious interest, and KMFA in Austin, TX has committed to creating their own Recording Inclusivity Initiative. More information can be found at allclassical.org/recordinginclusivity.

The Recording Inclusivity Initiative is made possible in part by a generous grant from the **Oregon Cultural Trust**. RII has also received financial support from **IBEW Local 48**, **First Republic Bank**, as well as a grant from **Regional Arts and Culture Council** toward the Composer-in-Residence positions. The Sorel Organization's generous investment will help to fund the rollout of a national database to distribute recordings directly to radio stations across the United States.



Who: All Classical Portland and the Recording Inclusivity (RII)

What: Winners of Current.org's 2021 *Local that Works* contest, announcing **PARMA Recordings** and its subsidiary **Navona Records** as the official record label for the project, and **The Sorel Organization** as the lead funder of its national RII recordings database

When: Recording Inclusivity Initiative is currently underway, and All Classical Portland will broadcast the world premiere of the inaugural RII recordings in 2022

Where:

- All Classical Portland: 89.9 FM in Portland and allclassical.org
- More information about RII can be found at allclassical.org/recordinginclusivity
- New video about RII at: <https://youtu.be/oenDo7afB00>

About:

All Classical Portland is Portland, Oregon's classical radio station. Established in 1983, our mission is to advance knowledge of and appreciation for classical music; to build and sustain culturally vibrant local and global communities around this art form; to reflect the spirit of the Pacific Northwest; and to foster integrity, quality, and innovation in all that we do. For more information, visit allclassical.org.

The N M Bodecker Foundation provides creative communities with an extraordinary and energetic gathering place for workshops, mentoring and collaboration. Working with professional artists, musicians, writers and educators, the Foundation's FREE, multi-disciplinary workshops are designed to empower creative youth, including those from traditionally underserved communities, to imagine and achieve their artistic, educational, and professional dreams. Learn more at bodeckerfound.org or follow us on Instagram @bodeckerfound.

PARMA Recordings works with artists across genres, backgrounds, and borders, effectively bringing musical projects to completion with accuracy. By beginning with the end in mind and keeping quality at the forefront, we create projects recognized by the Recording Academy, Billboard, Gramophone, and BBC Music, and performed onstage at Carnegie Hall, the Kennedy Center, and more. **Naxos Records**, in collaboration with Parma Recordings, will aid in the distribution of RII recordings.

The Elizabeth & Michel Sorel Charitable Organization Inc., a 501(c)(3) private foundation, was established in 1996 by pianist Claudette Sorel and named for her parents. The Sorel Organization is committed to expanding opportunities for women in music, amplifying the voices of underrepresented composers, advancing gender and racial equity, and broadening the classical music canon for future generations. www.SorelMusic.org