

# STOCKTON

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## Richard Stockton College Announces Atlantic City Home for Bay-Atlantic Symphony

Dante Hall Theater Location to Help Extend Symphony's Reach

### ***For Immediate Release***

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***Download a high resolution image here:***

<http://intraweb.stockton.edu/eyos/facebook/images/Signing.JPG>

**Photo Caption:** Stockton President Herman Saatkamp, seated, is surrounded from left to right by Bay-Atlantic Symphony Board President Robert Woodruff, Executive Director Paul D. Herron, Music Director Jed Gaylin and Stockton Board of Trustees Chair Stanley Ellis.

**Galloway Township, NJ-** Stockton President Herman Saatkamp and representatives from the Bay-Atlantic Symphony today signed an agreement to make The Richard Stockton College – Dante Hall Theater in Atlantic City the premier home to the Symphony along the Atlantic Ocean.

Bay-Atlantic Symphony Executive Director Paul D. Herron, Music Director Jed Gaylin and Board President Robert Woodruff were in attendance at the signing ceremony.

Stockton President Herman Saatkamp said, "We are pleased to welcome the Bay-Atlantic Symphony to the Atlantic City Arts District and look forward to their music and upcoming concerts. The one-year anniversary of Stockton's collaboration with Dante Hall Theater just passed at the beginning of this month, and there is no better way to celebrate that milestone than by welcoming a symphony of world-class musicians to the venue."

The Bay-Atlantic Symphony, founded in 1983, became the Stockton Performing Arts Center's Orchestra in Residence in 1993. Their new Atlantic City presence will further extend the Symphony's reach and bring live music to a diverse audience.

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“The Bay-Atlantic Symphony believes great music is for everyone and our mission is to share great music with all of southern New Jersey. Our new presence at Stockton’s Dante Hall Theater in the heart of Atlantic City’s burgeoning arts district provides the perfect location to cultivate our innovative programming and transformative performances to audiences within the Greater Atlantic City area,” explained Bay-Atlantic Symphony Executive Director Paul D. Herron.

In 2011, the Bay-Atlantic Symphony performed five free concerts at Dante Hall Theater, which brought live concert music to more than 500 community members. Four concerts by the Bay-Atlantic Symphony are scheduled for October 4-7, 2012, at Dante Hall Theater for the Atlantic City Music Festival.

Additionally, over the past year, the Bay-Atlantic Symphony has performed numerous concerts and taught master classes and lectures on Stockton’s main campus in both the Performing Arts Center (PAC) and the Campus Center Theatre and at the Carnegie Center in Atlantic City.

President Saatkamp will guest conduct the Bay-Atlantic Symphony’s free patriotic concert at the Avalon Community Hall on July 4, 2012.

Richard Stockton College – Dante Hall Theater in Atlantic City, originally built in 1926 by St. Michael’s Catholic Church, is located in the heart of Ducktown and was first used as a church hall, school gymnasium, and a community theater for school plays and a venue for the St. Michael’s Opera Company.

St. Michael’s closed the parish school in the 1980s, and it wasn’t until 2003, when the Casino Reinvestment Development Authority funded an 18-month, \$3.5 million renovation for Dante Hall Theater that the space came to life again.

Since Stockton began operating the theater last June, a variety of performing arts and musical programs have been offered. Dante Hall Theater was just named the presenting sponsor of the Downbeach Film Festival’s Atlantic City Cinefest set for October 12-14, 2012. In addition, the William J. Hughes Center for Public Policy at Stockton College has utilized the space to host a state Senate and Assembly debate in September of 2011.

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