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CCM's Lowry resigns

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Douglas Lowry, dean of the University of Cincinnati College-Conservatory of Music, has resigned to become dean of the Eastman School of Music of the University of Rochester (N.Y.). President Joel Seligman announced his appointment today. His new post, the result of an international search that began last spring, is effective Aug. 1.

Noting that his feelings about leaving CCM are bittersweet, Lowry said by phone on Monday from Rochester that "it was just one of those moments."

"The Eastman School is a formidable entity. This is an opportunity that started slowly and suddenly accelerated in the last couple of weeks," he said. "The Eastman School has held an international leadership role in the training of performers, scholars, creators, educators and musical citizens. The opportunity to go to a school of this stature, with the wonderful lessons in perspective that I gained from the first-class work done at CCM, seemed like an opportunity that I could not refuse."

Lowry was appointed CCM dean seven years ago to succeed retiring dean Robert J. Werner. He has overseen strategic faculty appointments as well as the growth of CCM programs overseas, including an opera program in Lucca (Italy); the Great Wall Academy, a summer chamber music festival in Beijing, China; and an exchange program in Munich with CCM's Electronic Media division.

He said he is proudest of "the way we raised the level of our programs, in terms of stature and productivity, and the way we have connected CCM with the community."

As a composer, Lowry has created works for the Cincinnati Symphony Orchestra, Louisville Orchestra, Playhouse in the Park and numerous national organizations. He also points to public events such as "A Moveable Feast" and "In a Whirl of Jazz" that encouraged people from the community to visit CCM who might not have done so.

"I also believe we have encouraged faculty to broaden the band width of the performing arts and encourage some synergies between music and other art forms that I think are important, including electronic media," he added.

Anthony Perzigian, UC senior vice president and provost, said that UC will begin to make plans immediately to search for a new CCM dean. He will appoint an interim dean and a search committee as soon as possible, he said.

Besides a search for a new dean, CCM is also searching for a new chair of its opera department. Last week, the school confirmed that Nick Mangano, professor of acting and interim chair of the opera department, has accepted a position at SUNY Stony Brook. Mangano was filling in for Sandra Bernhard, who is leaving to start a new job with Houston Grand Opera. She succeeded Malcolm Fraser in 2003 in the J. Ralph Corbett Distinguished Chair in Opera.