



CONTACT: Chantel Chen Uchida
(949) 553-2422, ext. 231
chantel@philharmonicsociety.org

Marie Songco-Torres
(949) 553-2422, ext. 230
marie@philharmonicsociety.org

ORANGE COUNTY YOUTH SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA JOINS PHILHARMONIC SOCIETY FAMILY

IRVINE, CA—The Philharmonic Society of Orange County is pleased to announce that effective this season, the Orange County Youth Symphony Orchestra will officially integrate with the Philharmonic Society, a joining of two extraordinary music organizations who have enjoyed a longstanding partnership for more than 30 years and share a passion for great music for our community. Moving forward, the orchestra will be known as the Philharmonic Society's Orange County Youth Symphony.

As part of the Philharmonic Society, the musicians of the Orange County Youth Symphony will have exciting opportunities to engage with some of classical music's most celebrated artists through master classes with Philharmonic Society artists—such as the one with Kronos Quartet taking place in late October—along with open rehearsals and enriching experiences attending Philharmonic Society concerts throughout each season.

“I’m so excited to welcome the Orange County Youth Symphony to the Philharmonic Society family,” said John Mangum, President and Artistic Director of the Philharmonic Society. “Our history as collaborators has covered more than three decades, and this seemed like a natural evolution for our partnership, with our mutual commitment to great musical experiences for young people in our community. Together, I think we’ll be able to create remarkable opportunities for emerging musicians here in Orange County, especially with the Youth Symphony’s upcoming 50th anniversary in 2019-20.”

Daniel Alfred Wachs, who has served as the Orange County Youth Symphony's music director and conductor since 2008, added, "The Youth Symphony is proud and honored to join forces with one of the most celebrated and recognized presenters in the nation. While the two organizations have been collaborating for many years, most notably in our acclaimed Concerts for Fifth Graders, the opportunities that we will now offer our pre-professional musicians will be unparalleled in Southern California: access to the finest musicians from around the world. I very much look forward to this next chapter in both of our distinguished organization's future."

The Orange County Youth Symphony was formed in 1970, when the Orange County Department of Education together with founding conductor John Koshak and Chapman University came up with the idea of creating a top-tier honor orchestra for Orange County high school students. In its 48-year history, the Orange County Youth Symphony has called Chapman University its home and traveled the world representing Orange County's best young adult musicians, performing in prestigious venues such as the Walt Disney Concert Hall and Carnegie Hall, and abroad in Austria, China, Germany, Hong Kong, Italy, Japan, Spain, Switzerland, and the United Kingdom. It has performed new works by composers such as Mark-Anthony Turnage, including the U.S. premiere of his *Passchendaele* and the U.S. West Coast premiere of *Frieze*. In 2012, the Orange County Youth Symphony received the prestigious American Prize in Orchestra Performance—Youth Orchestra Division.

The Philharmonic Society's partnership with the Orange County Youth Symphony dates back to 1986, when the two organizations collaborated to present an updated version of the Philharmonic Society's Symphonies for Youth. This was the beginning of Concerts for Fifth Graders, a concert program exploring orchestral music in its historical and cultural contexts. These concerts offer fifth grade students a performance by the Orange County Youth Symphony and dancers from Anaheim Ballet in the professional setting of a world-class venue. Initially taking place at Segerstrom Hall, the Concerts for Fifth Graders moved to the Renée and Henry Segerstrom Concert Hall at Segerstrom Center for the Arts after the hall's opening in 2006. Serving nearly 15,000 students annually in four pairs of concerts, the Concerts for Fifth Graders are fully

subscribed and even waitlisted, and have brought music into the lives of hundreds of thousands of children.

The Philharmonic Society and Orange County Youth Symphony have also collaborated on a number of concert performances, including family concerts presented by the Philharmonic Society for the last three seasons, such as 2015's *Peter and the Wolf* with Jason Alexander as narrator, 2016's *The Young Person's Guide to the Orchestra*, and the upcoming December performance of Humperdinck's *Hansel and Gretel*, condensed to one hour and featuring mezzo-soprano Milena Kitic and vocalists from LA Opera's distinguished Domingo-Colburn-Stein Young Artist program.

ABOUT THE PHILHARMONIC SOCIETY:

Founded in 1954, the Philharmonic Society of Orange County is Orange County's oldest music organization and third oldest arts organization, presenting the world's most acclaimed symphony orchestras, chamber ensembles, performing organizations and artists. A catalyst for cultural and educational development throughout its region, the Philharmonic Society is a key resident company in the Renée and Henry Segerstrom Concert Hall at Segerstrom Center for the Arts.

For more than 60 years the Society has presented artists who set the standards for artistic achievement: Sir Georg Solti, Itzhak Perlman, Jacqueline du Pré, Daniel Barenboim, Lorin Maazel and Cecilia Bartoli, to name just a few. In addition, many of the world's greatest orchestras have performed in Orange County by invitation of the Philharmonic Society. The Society celebrated the diversity of our cultural landscape with Eclectic Orange Festival presentations from 1999-2004. Eclectic Orange events championed contemporary composers through commissions and sponsorship of regional and world premieres. Among the living composers presented were Tan Dun, Philip Glass, Osvaldo Golijov, John Adams, Edgar Meyer, Burhan Öçal and Mikel Rouse. Past presentations include the West Coast premiere of Steve Reich's "The Cave," the Southern California premiere of Terry Riley's "Sun Rings," the United States exclusive engagement of Théâtre Zingaro, the West Coast premiere of "Orion" by Philip Glass, the West Coast premiere of Steve Reich's "WTC 9/11", and the 2011 exclusive West Coast recital appearance of opera superstar Renée Fleming.