

OCYSO

ORANGE COUNTY YOUTH SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

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**OCYSO IS PLEASED TO ANNOUNCE COLLABORATION FOR 2015-2016 WITH
YOUNG MUSICIANS FOUNDATION DEBUT ORCHESTRA CULMINATING WITH A
LOS ANGELES PHILHARMONIC ASSOCIATION *SOUNDS ABOUT TOWN* PRESENTATION
ON JANUARY 10, 2016**

**PBS SoCal (KOCE) TO AIR OCYSO's 2014 DOCUMENTARY
*Beethoven's Ninth: Journey to Joy***

**OCYSO ENGAGED TO PRESENT NEW FAMILY HOLIDAY PROGRAM AT SEGERSTROM
HALL AS PART OF 2015-2016 PHILHARMONIC SOCIETY OF ORANGE COUNTY SEASON**

(Orange, CA) – The Orange County Youth Symphony (OCYSO) is pleased to announce several projects including a special collaboration with Young Musicians Foundation Debut Orchestra (YMF) for the 2015-2016 season: *World War I: A Centenary Perspective*, a series of commemorative events culminating in a special concert on the Los Angeles Philharmonic Association's *Sounds About Town* series on January 10, 2016. This performance will include the U.S. premiere of a new work by British composer Mark-Anthony Turnage (*Passchendaele*, an OCYSO co-commission with the Concertgebouw Brugge and the City of Birmingham Symphony Youth Orchestra) on a program that commemorates the centennial of the First World War and questions the line between war and peace. The program also includes Ives' *The Unanswered Question* and Nielsen's Symphony No. 4, *The Inextinguishable*. Additional artistic partners will be announced in the fall of 2015. This concert marks the first collaboration between OCYSO and YMF and OCYSO's debut on the *Sounds About Town* series.

"I consider artistic collaboration as a cornerstone of my tenure as music director of OCYSO", says Daniel Alfred Wachs. "Under my leadership, OCYSO has collaborated with the Mozarteum Orchestra of Salzburg in a side-by-side at the Renée & Henry Segerstrom Concert Hall where we presented the U.S. premiere of a work by Kurt Schwertsik; and with Chapman University, and the University of California-Irvine. We are now thrilled to be working with YMF, enabling us to present the U.S. premiere and OCYSO co-commission of Mark Anthony Turnage's *Passchendaele* to a wider audience. We are honored that the Los Angeles Philharmonic is presenting us on this prestigious series."

"I am thrilled to have YMF's Debut Orchestra perform with the OCYSO," says Julia Gaskill, YMF Debut Executive Director. "YMF and OCYSO are two pillars for pre-professional training of young musicians nationwide, each with a long and rich history of their own. Bringing both orchestras together provides our musicians with an invaluable occasion to inspire and learn from each other. The opportunity to have our newly appointed Music Director & Conductor Yuga Cohler conduct alongside Maestro Daniel Alfred Wachs is also a testament to YMF and OCYSO's educational mission to shape our future generation of musicians."

In April 2015, OCYSO released the documentary *Beethoven's Ninth: Journey to Joy* following the OCYSO as it prepares one of the most challenging works in the symphonic repertoire. Presented by the Philharmonic Society of Orange County as its 60th anniversary season

finale on May 15, 2014, the sold-out concert features the OCYSO performing Beethoven's Ninth Symphony and the West Coast premiere of Mark Anthony Turnage's *Frieze* at the Renée & Henry Segerstrom Concert Hall in Costa Mesa, CA in. PBS SoCal-KOCE will air the documentary in summer of 2015 as part of its regular programming.

Finally, OCYSO is pleased to expand its relationship with the Philharmonic Society of Orange County in 2015-2016 through an additional Family Holiday Program, which both parties plan to make an annual tradition. The concert will feature a program intended to widen the scope of young audiences for both organizations, developed by both OCYSO Music Director Daniel Alfred Wachs and Philharmonic Society President John Mangum.

"Having heard such outstanding reports of the OCYSO's Beethoven Ninth last May, and having experienced their terrific Concert for Fifth Graders as part of our Youth Music Programs this series, I was so happy that Daniel agreed to partner with us again for this special holiday family concert," says Mangum. "We're developing a program that I think will delight music lovers of all ages, and I'm happy to see our 29-year partnership with OCYSO continue to flourish and develop in new ways."

ABOUT OCYSO

The Orange County Youth Symphony Orchestra (OCYSO), now in its 46th season, is the official youth orchestra of Orange County, CA. Deemed "the real thing" by *The Los Angeles Times*, OCYSO is the winner of the 2012 American Prize in Orchestral Performance—Youth Orchestra Division. Music Director & Conductor Daniel Alfred Wachs has led OCYSO through many prestigious performances including US and West Coast premieres by composers such as Mark-Anthony Turnage and Kurt Schwertsik, European tours and a season-long project with Beethoven's Symphony No. 9 culminating in a documentary entitled "Beethoven's Ninth: Journey to Joy" that was selected by PBS SoCal for multiple broadcasts. OCYSO's mission, to introduce music into the lives of young people, is fulfilled in part through its acclaimed "Concerts for Fifth Graders," in the Renée and Henry Segerstrom Concert Hall at the Segerstrom Center for the Arts, conducted and developed by Wachs. This series, "kids playing for kids", presented by the Philharmonic Society of Orange County, has provided music education for more than a million students over twenty-five years. Additionally, OCYSO presents a concert series in the historic Memorial Hall Auditorium at Chapman University, and will soon move into the new \$85 million Musco Center for the Arts opening in spring 2016.

Highlights of the 2015-16 Season include a first-ever family concert at the Renée and Henry Segerstrom Concert Hall and a season-long collaboration with the Young Musicians Foundation Debut Orchestra (YMF Debut) of Los Angeles. This collaborative concert with YMF, presented by the Los Angeles Philharmonic on its prestigious *Sounds About Town* series at the Walt Disney Concert Hall, will feature the United States premiere of Mark Anthony Turnage's *Passachendaele*, an OCYSO co-commission with the City of Birmingham Symphony Youth Orchestra and the Concertgebouw Brugge. In addition, musicians from both OCYSO and YMF-Debut will perform on the Los Angeles County Museum of Art's (LACMA) *Sundays Live Series*.

OCYSO's 2013-2014 season was presented in conjunction with the Philharmonic Society of Orange County's *Beethoven: The Late Great* series and culminated in a sold-out season finale concert presenting the West Coast premiere of Mark Anthony Turnage's "Frieze" and Beethoven's Ninth Symphony. *The Orange County Register* selected this concert as one of the "Must See" performances of the season and *The Los Angeles Times* picked it as a top concert choice for Spring 2014. *The Orange County Register* exclaimed "The performance wasn't just good by standards for younger performers, but forceful and exuberant by any standard: genuinely inspiring, technically proficient, structurally sound."

During its distinguished history, OCYSO has performed at major music conferences throughout the United States and was featured at the 2013 TEDx held at Chapman University. OCYSO presented a capstone performance at Walt Disney Concert Hall as part of the inaugural West Coast Youth Orchestra Festival. In the summer of 2013, OCYSO toured the United Kingdom and attended the famed Proms Concerts as guests of the Royal Philharmonic Society. A review of OCYSO's performance at Bristol Cathedral stated that "The young players gave an excellent performance and earned the tremendous ovation they received...Charismatic director Daniel Alfred Wachs was excellent throughout." OCYSO's performances have been lauded by both critics and audiences throughout Austria, Italy, Germany, Switzerland, Hong Kong, the People's Republic of China, Japan and at the United Nations and Carnegie Hall. OCYSO's next international tour to Spain is scheduled for summer 2016.

In celebration of its 40th anniversary in 2009-10, OCYSO performed a joint concert with the Mozarteum Orchestra of Salzburg, presenting the United States premiere of Kurt Schwertsik's *Mr. K Discovers America*. In his review for *The Los Angeles Times*, Mark Swed wrote "The performance was smashing thanks in no small part to the exceptionally well-practiced pre-professionals, who brought a sparkle to the Salzburgers' sound that wasn't there before...They are the real thing."

For more information, please visit www.ocyso.org

