ANNUAL REPORT, 2016/17 Season
Come as you are. Leave inspired.
Dear Friends,

How can I begin to tell you what a wonderful experience I had in my first season with the American Youth Symphony? The orchestra itself was a thrill to lead; each and every Fellow brings their best to every rehearsal and concert. I particularly loved working with our two Concerto Competition winners, Coleman Itzkoff and Rachel Ostler, who wowed audiences with their poise and artistry; and conducting rock-and-roll legend Steve Vai and Stravinsky’s monumental The Rite of Spring at Walt Disney Concert Hall is a moment I will never forget!

This year, there is so much that I look forward to sharing with these musicians, and you, our audience. Richard Strauss’ Don Juan is without a doubt one of the most exciting tone poems ever written, the perfect piece to set the tone for our opening concert, along with Shostakovich’s historic 12th Symphony, and Bruch’s lyrical Violin Concerto, featuring this year’s Concerto Competition winner, Aubree Oliverson. Then, later this fall, I can’t wait to explore John Williams’ masterful E.T. score at our annual Hollywood Project concert!

In February, AYS will begin 2018 by honoring the great Leonard Bernstein, as part of his centennial celebration. We then look forward to returning, once again, to the LA Phil’s Sounds About Town series, for a concert with legendary pianist Vladimir Feltsman in March. April will find us commemorating another successful AYS season with a very special Gala concert, sponsored by the NEA and presented in partnership with Human Rights Watch. In this concert, promoting justice and liberty for all, we will celebrate the lives of Spanish poet Federico García Lorca in a work by Silvestre Revueltas; Abraham Lincoln, with Copland’s iconic Lincoln Portrait, and classical music’s greatest spokesman for freedom: Ludwig van Beethoven. I will also be personally composing a new work to be premiered on this occasion, which I am excited and honored to share.

Finally, I want to thank you all for welcoming me so enthusiastically last year. Joining the Los Angeles music community while leading this inspiring orchestra has been even better than I could have imagined. I look forward to being here with you for many happy years to come.

Sincerely,

Carlos Izcaray
Music Director
The American Youth Symphony's mission is to inspire the future of classical music by providing landmark fellowships to virtuosic young adults and exceptional, innovative, and free concerts to the Los Angeles community.

Competitively selected, our orchestra is comprised of 100 musicians who represent extraordinary talent from all over the world. By offering our community remarkable concerts at world-class venues, we remain committed to creating access and opportunity for everyone to experience the inspiration of this beautiful art form.

**WHAT WE BELIEVE:**

- Access to world-class classical music Fellowships should be based solely on merit, not financial means.
- Exceptional quality orchestral performances should be accessible to all members of the community.
- Classical music is not only alive and vibrant, but is relevant to all audiences.
- Musicians have a responsibility to be engaged citizens in the communities they serve.
An elite Fellowship opportunity, AYS is designed to prepare the concert artists of tomorrow for leadership in top-flight professional orchestras and ensembles. Musicians receive in-depth exposure to the varied styles of symphonic music, from classical masterworks to world premiers and innovative film and video game scores. Each AYS Fellow receives an annual stipend ranging from $1,400-$4,000 and there is no tuition. Fellows perform at renowned venues like Royce Hall and Walt Disney Concert Hall, and work alongside world-class guest artists such as Sarah Chang, Daniel Bjarnason, Glenn Dicterow, Johannes Moser, John Williams, David Newman, Alan Silvestri, Takeshi Furukawa, and Lera Auerbach. Designed to challenge, nurture, and inspire, AYS is a musical laboratory where Fellows not only master their parts and develop a deep understanding of musical scores, but also explore their roles as musician citizens within their community.

The American Youth Symphony’s in-school music education program is now serving twice as many schools, and twice as many students! From performance technique to theory to composition, Share-A-Stand provides students with hands-on musical instruction and is offered at such Title 1 LAUSD schools as Markham Middle School in Watts and Robert Frost Middle School in Granada Hills. AYS musicians mentor Share-A-Stand participants on everything from how to hold a bow and maintain a successful practice routine to how to analyze favorite songs. In addition to a culminative concert given at the Share-A-Stand host schools and featuring a side-by-side with AYS musicians, the program provides participants and their families with free transportation to two AYS concerts per season.
OUR DIVERSE AND GROWING AUDIENCE

99% of concert tickets sold out during the 2016-17 season.

48% of audience members were under 40 years of age.

34% of audience members were under 30 years of age.

45% of audience members were 40-59 years of age.

34% of audience members were 30-39 years of age.

24% of audience members were 40-59 years of age.

24% of audience members were over 59 years of age.

67% of 2016/17 audience members were attending an AYS concert for the first-time.

58% of 2016/17 audience members identified as P.O.C.

67% of 2016/17 audience members were under 40 years of age.

40-59 years of age.

30-39 years of age.

Under 30 years of age.

Over 59 years of age.

115% Audience Growth

TOTAL YEARLY CONCERT RESERVATIONS (CONCERT SEASONS 2012/13 - 2016/17)

2012/13: 5,002

2013/14: 9,235

2014/15: 9,518

2015/16: 10,527

2016/17: 10,797

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STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

ASSETS

<table>
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<tr>
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<th>FY 14/15</th>
<th>FY 15/16</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cash and Cash Equivalents</td>
<td>$156,505</td>
<td>$154,892</td>
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<tr>
<td>Investments</td>
<td>$103,692</td>
<td>$101,682</td>
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<td>Contributions Receivable, Net</td>
<td>$434,600</td>
<td>$184,025</td>
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<tr>
<td>Other Receivables</td>
<td>$800</td>
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<tr>
<td>Other Assets</td>
<td>$2,707</td>
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<tr>
<td>Equipment, Net</td>
<td>$8,926</td>
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<td>Antique Instrument</td>
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<td><strong>TOTAL ASSETS</strong></td>
<td><strong>$707,230</strong></td>
<td><strong>$620,363</strong></td>
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LIABILITIES

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<th>FY 14/15</th>
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<tr>
<td>Accounts Payable and Accrued Expenses</td>
<td>$9,512</td>
<td>$15,421</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>NET ASSETS</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Unrestricted</td>
<td>$159,426</td>
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<td>Temporarily Restricted</td>
<td>$438,292</td>
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<td>Permanently Restricted</td>
<td>$100,000</td>
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<td><strong>TOTAL NET ASSETS</strong></td>
<td><strong>$697,718</strong></td>
<td><strong>$469,942</strong></td>
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YEAR-END REVENUE & EXPENSES
From Statement of Activities

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<tr>
<td>Revenue</td>
<td>$1,281,584</td>
<td>$1,655,857</td>
<td>$1,680,660</td>
<td>$1,653,837</td>
<td>$1,672,202</td>
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<td>Expenses</td>
<td>$1,087,391</td>
<td>$1,097,838</td>
<td>$1,097,391</td>
<td>$1,097,225</td>
<td>$1,107,287</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Net Income</strong></td>
<td>$194,193</td>
<td>$578,019</td>
<td>$623,269</td>
<td>$655,512</td>
<td>$644,920</td>
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**SOURCES OF REVENUE:**

- Individual Contributions
- Corporate and Foundation Grants
- Government Income
- Interest & Dividend Income
- Events
- Earned Income
- Gifts In-Kind

**PROGRAMS VS. ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS**

- Program Services
- Administrative & Fundraising Costs

**NOTE:** Subsequent to June 30, 2015, a donor with an outstanding pledge of $350,000 decided to terminate their obligation to AYS, as it was tied to our former Music Director. The donor made one final payment of $40,000, and the remaining pledge balance of $310 was written off in FY 2016.
I’d just like to thank everyone at the American Youth Symphony from the bottom of my heart for all of the wonderful opportunities and music making from these past three years. I’ll cherish the memories forever and carry them with me as I proceed with my career into the future. AYS provided me with opportunities to play great repertoire with great conductors, as well as encouragement to be a strong ambassador for the art outside of performance.

-- Coleman Itzkoff, Principal Cello 2014 - 2017
2016 AYS Concerto Competition Winner
What people are saying about the AMERICAN YOUTH SYMPHONY:

“[AYS] continues to remind me that... we have the power to shape the next generation, create exciting concerts in our Los Angeles community, and grow as more entrepreneurial, forward-thinking musicians.”
-- Aija Mattson, french horn (2014- Present)

“Absolutely stunning. The music was fantastic... I love that [AYS] can pick such eclectic pieces and perform them so well.”
-- Audience member (November 17, 2016)

“It was the best concert we have ever attended there. Best concert anywhere.”
-- Audience Member (September 24, 2017)

“[AYS] continues to remind me that... we have the power to shape the next generation, create exciting concerts in our Los Angeles community, and grow as more entrepreneurial, forward-thinking musicians.”
-- Aija Mattson, french horn (2014- Present)

“The American Youth Symphony gave a remarkable performance of ‘Heaven Earth Mankind’... they embraced the work’s formidable demands with winning virtuosity, producing rich-hued sonorities.”
-- The LA Times on sold-out performance at Walt Disney Concert Hall (March 14, 2016)

“Gustavo Dudamel conducted members of the American Youth Symphony in a stirring rendition of Williams’ theme from Schindler’s List.”
-- Variety Magazine on AYS tribute to John Williams (June 10, 2016)

“The American Youth Symphony stands high, mastering the challenge of performing film music with all its unconventional meters and rhythms. Don’t be deceived by the label of ‘youth’ orchestra; the AYS is the real deal.”
-- Justin Craig, Film Score Monthly

“[AYS] is the finest youth symphony on Earth.”
-- Jim Svejda, KUSC
Music Director
Carlos Izcaray

Resident Conductor
Juan Felipe Molano

Board Chairman
Kevin Dretzka

Chairman Emeritus
Herbert M. Gelfand

Executive Director
Varina Bleil

Honorary President
Zubin Mehta

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Alan Silvestri
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Edward Yim

Staff
Isabel Thiroux, Director of Orchestra Operations
Alice Dutton, Director of Community Engagement
Lea Pandy, Development Associate
Mario Acosta, Programs & Administration Associate

Our Team

Our Mission, Our Vision
Our Programs
Our Events
Our Audience
Fiscal Responsibility
Alumni Spotlights
AYS Testimonials
Our Supporters
The American Youth Symphony is deeply grateful to our community, including these generous supporters:

AFM & SAG-AFTRA Fund
Ann and Gordon Getty Foundation
Broadcast Music Inc (BMI)
The Capital Group Companies Charitable Foundation
The Cecile and Fred Bartman Foundation
Charles Schwab Bank
Clarence E. Heller Charitable Foundation
Colburn Foundation
Dwight Stuart Youth Fund
Ella Fitzgerald Foundation
Film Musicians Secondary Markets Fund
Flora L. Thornton Foundation
The Flourish Foundation
Fuller Family Foundation
Gorfaine Schwartz Agency
The Green Foundation
Hennings-Fischer Foundation
The JDS Fishing Foundation of The Dayton Foundation
The Kaman Foundation
Lady’s Secret Foundation
Leo Buscaglia Foundation
Liquid Music, Inc.
Los Angeles County Arts Commission
Los Angeles Philharmonic Association
Marc and Eva Stern Foundation
National Endowment for the Arts
NBC Universal
Paramount Pictures
Pasadena Showcase House for the Arts
The Ralph M. Parsons Foundation
The Rose Hills Foundation
Ruth/Allen Ziegler Foundation
Shapiro Family Charitable Foundation
Sidney Stern Memorial Trust
Sony Interactive Entertainment America
Wells Fargo Bank