Annual Report
2015/16 Concert Season

AMERICAN YOUTH SYMPHONY
Come as you are. Leave Inspired.

New Music Director!  Our Mission, Our Vision  Our Programs  Our Events  Our Audience  Fiscal Responsibility  Alumni Spotlights  AYS Testimonials  Our Team  Our Supporters
I am incredibly honored and excited to become the next Music Director of the American Youth Symphony, an ensemble with a deep history and a bright future in the great city of Los Angeles.

I come to AYS as a dedicated musician who after years of experience as a regular guest conductor across five continents, a concert cellist, and a composer, looks forward to working with today’s most talented young musicians. I’m also the Music Director of the Alabama Symphony Orchestra, a husband, and father of three little kids.

Having grown up in Caracas in a musical household has certainly been instrumental in my choice to become both a musician and a passionate advocate of the arts. My father is a respected conductor and music educator in Venezuela and my mother is an artistic administrator and fundraiser. They encouraged me from an early age to work hard as a musician, but also to experience the world and see how the arts have been an instrument for positive change. When I heard about AYS and its longstanding commitment to culture and social outreach, I knew it would be a unique opportunity to continue Maestro Mehli Mehta’s mission.

AYS is a place for great musical talents to unite and experience the high demands of the professional world while forging lifelong friendships in a highly competitive environment. The talent, focus, and precision of AYS musicians have moved me beyond words. Their spirit and tenacity, their musical vivacity, and the fresh perspective they take to their exploration of riveting orchestral works inspire and invigorate classical music audiences new and seasoned alike. As an elite Fellowship training orchestra that fosters enriching mentorship relationships, AYS and I share a firm belief in the familial responsibility that binds each successive cohort of musicians and our community. It is because of this belief in a musical family that I have worked tirelessly to support the next generation of musicians by having collaborated with leading music education institutions such as Venezuela’s El Sistema, Colombia’s National Youth Symphony, Brazil’s Neojiba, Interlochen Center for the Arts, Cambridge University Music Society, and London Schools Symphony Orchestra, to name a few. And it is because of this belief that I cherish the opportunity to contribute to the future of classical music by taking what I view as the natural next step in the progression of my journey and my life -- the American Youth Symphony.

I am thrilled to begin guiding our musicians both off-stage and on for my inaugural concert season in 2016/17. Featuring several major classical works, the repertoire prepares AYS musicians for the demands of a 21st century professional orchestra. Such giants as Mozart and Korngold need no introduction, and I was particularly excited to kick off the season with Mahler’s Symphony No. 1 on October 16, and look forward to joining electric-guitar icon Steve Vai on-stage at Walt Disney Concert Hall on March 11 for a concert that features Stravinsky’s The Rite of Spring!

Whether you’re a dyed-by-the-wool aficionado or a classical music newcomer, a fan of music in general or even a videogamer (check out what we have planned for February 12!), there is something for audiences across all music backgrounds this concert season.

Every bright future is built on a solid foundation, and it is in that spirit that we share this Annual Report and our many success during the 2015/16 concert season. As a valued member and contributor to our community, please know that it is through your support of and belief in our mission that we are able to mentor the musical minds of tomorrow and to put a rich, beautiful art form within reach of all audiences. Together, we have made the American Youth Symphony a truly inspirational force in the world of classical music.

Please take a moment to read through our Annual Report so that you may better understand the remarkable impact that your generosity has had.

With sincerest gratitude,

Carlos Izcaray
Music Director
The American Youth Symphony's mission is to inspire the future of classical music. We share exceptional, innovative concerts for free or significantly reduced admission based on our landmark Fellowship program for musicians ages 15-27. Competitively selected, our orchestra is comprised of 100 musicians who represent extraordinary talent from all over the world. By gifting our community with 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.
The American Youth Symphony is a musical laboratory where Fellows not only master their parts and develop a deep understanding of musical scores, but also acquire the flexibility, creativity and leadership skills necessary to succeed as 21st century orchestral musicians and as musician citizens within their community. With a 10% acceptance rate and an average of three audition attempts per musician, positions in the orchestra are extremely competitive. Fellows represent between 25-35 different schools and perform eight concerts per season between September and May. Each Fellow receives a tuition-free scholarship and a per-concert stipend, performs at renowned venues such as Royce Hall and Walt Disney Concert Hall, and works alongside world-class guest artists such as Daníel Bjarnason, Anna Clyne, Sarah Chang, Johannes Moser, John Williams, David Newman, Alan Silvestri, Charles Fox, and Lera Auerbach.

The American Youth Symphony’s in-school music and mentoring program is now serving twice as many schools, and three times 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, to maintaining a successful practice routine, to how to analyze favorite songs, and more. In addition to a year-end concert given at the Share-A-Stand host school 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.
AYS concertgoers know how to have a good time!

From themed, pre-concert dinners...

From exclusive Members’ Priority performances...

From intimate Q&A’s with award-winning composers...

...to annual galas...

...to live-to-picture movie events.

...to post-concert receptions.

Hollywood Project dinner, September 27, 2015

Star Trek Into Darkness Live-to-Picture, September 27, 2015

Pre-concert Q&A with composer Michael Giacchino, September 27, 2015

51st Annual Gala, April 1, 2016
TOTAL YEARLY CONCERT RESERVATIONS
(CONCERT SEASONS 2012/13 - 2015/16)

*100% of Sept. 27 post-concert survey respondents indicated that
they would consider returning for a future AYS performance

7/8 (88%) of concerts sold out
during the 2015-16 season
(based on ticket reservations)

53% of 2015-16
concert season
audience members
were first-time
classical concert
attendees
(via data from online
surveys)

51% of audience
members during the
2015/16 concert season
were under 40 years of age

53% of 2015/16
audience members
identified as P.O.C.
### Statement of Financial Position

#### Assets

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>FY 14/15</th>
<th>FY 13/14</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cash and Cash Equivalents</td>
<td>$156,505</td>
<td>$69,154</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Investments</td>
<td>$103,692</td>
<td>$103,311</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contributions Receivable, Net</td>
<td>$434,600</td>
<td>$440,729</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other Receivables</td>
<td>$800</td>
<td>$1,125</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other Assets</td>
<td>$2,707</td>
<td>$2,564</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Equipment, Net</td>
<td>$8,926</td>
<td>$3,753</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Assets</strong></td>
<td><strong>$707,230</strong></td>
<td><strong>$620,363</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### Liabilities

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>FY 14/15</th>
<th>FY 13/14</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Accounts Payable and Accrued Expenses</td>
<td>$9,512</td>
<td>$26,988</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Line of Credit</td>
<td>$9,512</td>
<td>$17,045</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Liabilities</strong></td>
<td><strong>$9,512</strong></td>
<td><strong>$44,033</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### Net Assets

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>FY 14/15</th>
<th>FY 13/14</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Unrestricted</td>
<td>$159,426</td>
<td>$26,639</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Temporarily Restricted</td>
<td>$438,292</td>
<td>$449,964</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Permanently Restricted</td>
<td>$100,000</td>
<td>$100,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Net Assets</strong></td>
<td><strong>$697,718</strong></td>
<td><strong>$576,603</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### Total Liabilities & Assets

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>FY 14/15</th>
<th>FY 13/14</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Liabilities &amp; Assets</strong></td>
<td><strong>$707,230</strong></td>
<td><strong>$620,636</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Year-End Revenue & Expenses FY2012-FY2015

#### Sources of Revenue (FY2015)

- Individual Contributions: 22%
- Corporate Grants: 37%
- Foundation Grants: 4%
- Government Income: 2%
- Earned Income: 2%
- Events: 33%

Total Revenue: $1,043,574 (excluding interest/dividend income, investment losses)

#### Programs & Administrative Costs (FY2015)

- Program Services: 80%
- Administrative and Fundraising Costs: 20%

Total Program Services: $922,840
Former AYS timpanist Steven Logan was recently named Principal Timpani with the Auckland Philharmonia Orchestra!

“Performing with the American Youth Symphony was an experience I will always take with me wherever I go. When I think back on my time playing in the orchestra, my first thought is of how emotional each performance was. Anything in life is at its highest emotional state when being experienced for the first time, and with the age of the players of the orchestra, each concert is a first time opportunity. The competitiveness of the audition process and the age of the musicians guarantees you will take part in a performance that marries masterful playing with youthful excitement. Coming to an American Youth Symphony concert offers a one of a kind take on works you may have heard many times before and an inspired introduction to those that you haven’t.”

--Steven Logan, timpanist (2013 - 2016)

In addition to the numerous alumni who have matriculated into esteemed higher education institutions in recent years, such as the Curtis Institute of Music, the Juilliard School and Yale, we celebrate these recent, incredible accomplishments:

**Ben Adler** (Clarinetist 2014 - 2015)
Milwaukee Symphony, Assistant Principal, 2nd and E-flat Clarinet

**Nigel Armstrong** (Concertmaster, 2009 – 2011)
Santa Cruz Symphony, Concertmaster

**Stefani Feldman** (Clarinetist 2014 - 2015)
2016 Fulbright Scholar

**Matthew Howard** (Percussionist 2009 - 2012)
Los Angeles Philharmonic, Principal Percussion

**Philip Marten** (Concertmaster 2015 - 2016)
Kansas City Symphony, First Violin

**Simone Porter** (Violin, 2011 - 2013)
2015 Avery Fisher Career Grant

**Katherine Velasquez** (Flute, 2015-2016)
Midland Odessa Symphony, Principal Flute

Current members and alumni have also won numerous competitions, including the Fischoff Competition, Irving M. Klein International String Competition, Sphinx Competition, and the Tchaikovsky International Competition.
“beautiful & haunting”

“I had the opportunity to solo with the Paganini concerto [with AYS] when I was 16... [It] absolutely transformed me as a player and a person.”
-- Simone Porter, violin (2011-2013)

“I have played in countless orchestras in my life, but none have made me feel as inspired and proud as AYS.”
-- Emma McAllister, violin (2014-present)

“A group like AYS has the power to keep music alive.”
-- Audience member (September 27, 2015)

“...getting to have such an amazing night out with my husband was such a blessing. What you do is amazing! Thank you so much!”
-- Audience member (September 27, 2015)

“Thank you AYS for coming. The music was beautiful and you all inspired me to want to go to college and study music. You make me want to play music for the rest of my life!”
-- Student (Markham Middle School)

“This is my daughter’s first concert. Mine too. She’s only in kindergarten, but I guess I’ve already given her a better life than I started out with.”
-- Parent (Transfiguration Elementary School)

“the finest youth symphony on earth”

“The American Youth Symphony, led by David Alan Miller, 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
The American Youth Symphony is deeply grateful to our community, including these generous supporters:

(The following list recognizes contributors of $1000 or more between July 1, 2014 and July 1, 2016)

Donors $1000+

Ingrid & Keith Agre
Diana K. Ayres
Ida & Larry Baker
Terry & Lionel Bell
Irina & Benjamin Breslauer
Linda & Maynard Brittan
Liza Chasin
Shoshana Claman & Bill Steinberg
Alisa Coleman
Dan Coleman
Mary Levin Cutler
DhunMai & Phiroze Dalal
Silvia & Kevin Dretzka
Brittany DuBay
Dixie B. Eger
Danny Elfman
Helgard & Irwin Field
Larry Field
Joan & Charles Fox
Christine & Thomas Frisina
Sanford Gage
Lisa & Michael Gaines
Beverly & Herb Gelfand
Michael Giacchino
Gloria Gold
Marion Goldenfeld
Elaine & Bram Goldsmith
Carol Heathcr Goldsmith
Annie Gross
Richard Handwerger
Gary Hanel
Steven Linder & Michael Hanel
Jennifer Hawks
Marlene & James Henerson
Carol & Warner Henry
James Newton Howard
JoAnn & Charles Kaplan
Christina Kenney & Anthony Nesburn
Joyce Klein
Steve Kofsky
Terri & Jerry Kohl
Flo Robins & Dolph Kornblum
Michael Koskoff
Sheila Krasnoff
Alison Liebes Gardner
John Liebes
Anika Lorber
Sonja Jean Luna
Renee & Meyer Luskin
Ginny Mancini
Sarah Coade Mandell & Peter Mandell
Ruth Finkman & Ben Marandy
Marla Giacchino
Carianne Marshall
Maestro & Mrs. Zubin Mehta
Leah Mendelsohn
Brian Miller
Stephan Moccio
Yvonne Suzanne Moriarty
Lauren & Wally Mueller
Ilene & James Nathan
Margo Neal & LaVern Schenkelberg
Anthony Nesburn
Krystyna & David Newman
Randy Newman
Mr. and Mrs. Frederick M. Nicholas
Mr. & Mrs. Gerald Niznick
Elisa & Michael O’Hara
Mr. & Mrs. Edward M. Ornitz
David Papale
Diane & David Paul
Bradley & Stephanie Penenberg
Elizabeth Pitcairn
Gertrude Pomish
Joel Roman
Lois Rosen
Katherine Spillar & Richard Rosenthal
Laura & James Rosenwald
Doreen Ringer Ross
Geri Rotella & Peter Rotter
Marie L. Rourke
Cynthia Ruby
Wendy & Keh Ruby
Aliza Gur Scharger
Maureen & Harry Selvin
Lorraine & Sid Steinberg
Barry F. Silverman & Diane B. Mandell
Herb Simon
Theodore J. Slavin
Colette & Michael Spencer
Randy Spendlove
Cameron Strang
William Sullivan
Barbara & Lawrence Tenen
Mr. & Mrs. Frederick M. Nicholas
Isabel Thiroux & Gina Satriano
Maestro & Mrs. Alexander Treger
Brian Tyler
Caron Veezey
Mrs. Lee M. Warner
Catherine Weary
Edna Weiss
John Williams
Marlouise & Albert Zager
Marilyn Ziering
Jennifer Adams Zobelein
AMERICAN YOUTH SYMPHONY

TOGETHER, WE...

DARE TO DREAM BIG, ARE GRATEFUL & CELEBRATORY

MOVE AUDIENCES INTO ARDENT FANS, PROMOTE PROSPERITY

INSPIRE & SPREAD JOY

BREAK INDUSTRY BARRIERS, LISTEN & HELP OTHERS

ARE FORWARD-THINKING, ENGAGING & INCLUSIVE

HONOR INTEGRITY, EVOLVE THROUGH LEARNING


Credits: Kellen Aguilar, design; Philip Holahan, photos (cover, musicians)