League of American Orchestras to Honor ACSO Executive Director Kris Sinclair with the Gold Baton

New York, NY (May 4, 2016) – Association of California Symphony Orchestras (ACSO) executive director Kris Sinclair will be presented with the League of American Orchestras' highest honor, the Gold Baton, at the League’s National Conference in Baltimore, June 9-11. Sinclair, who is retiring this year after thirty-one years at ACSO's helm, will receive the award at the League’s Annual Meeting, June 10, at the Baltimore Marriott Waterfront.

“Over three decades, Kris Sinclair has been a staunch advocate for orchestras, creating a model state orchestra association through her exemplary leadership,” said Jesse Rosen, League of American Orchestras President and CEO. “She has been deeply engaged in a wide range of state-wide civic causes while building consensus, fostering collaboration, and achieving remarkable accomplishments for California’s orchestras.”

“Kris Sinclair is that wonderful friend and colleague we all have who remains steadfast through all the years of our career. She was a tremendous resource to me during the years I was working in California, and has stayed a good friend in all the years since,” said Deborah F. Rutter, president of the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts in Washington, D.C., who was executive director of the Los Angeles Chamber Orchestra and orchestra manager of the Los Angeles Philharmonic in the 80’s and early 90’s. “We had so much fun creating and recreating the work of ACSO in those years. She has earned the admiration and respect of the entire field, and has helped so many orchestras and arts organizations and countless individuals in their careers. Brava and congratulations to you, Kris. Well done – you are an inspiration!”
Given annually since 1948 for distinguished service to America’s orchestras, the Gold Baton recognizes individuals and institutions whose far-reaching contributions to the field serve to champion and advance the cause of orchestras and symphonic music throughout the country.

Previous Gold Baton recipients include, among many others, Leonard Bernstein (1959); John D. Rockefeller, III (1963); Paul Mellon (1964); American Federation of Musicians (1965); The Ford Foundation (1966); Leopold Stokowski (1968); Arthur Fiedler (1976); Aaron Copland (1978); Beverly Sills (1980); Isaac Stern (1987); Carnegie Hall (1990); and John Williams (2006). Click here for a full list of Gold Baton recipients.

Kris Sinclair has held the position of Executive Director of the Association of California Symphony Orchestras since 1985. Under her guidance ACSO, which was established in 1969, has grown in size and stature, developing from an organization with a $4,000 budget to its current budget of $300,000 and achieving many important milestones on behalf of California’s symphony orchestras and choruses.

Sinclair is a leader in the field of service to orchestras and has consulted with many states to start or strengthen their own orchestra associations. She has been an active partner of the League of American Orchestras, including a frequent presenter at League National Conferences. A past president of the Santa Rosa Symphony League (1983), she served as a Board Member of the Santa Rosa Symphony from 1984 to 1986 until relocating to Sacramento, where she became an officer of the Sacramento Symphony League. Sinclair was on the advisory council of the California Lawyers for the Arts and Arbitration Services, a founder and first chair of the California Arts Advocates (CAA), a member of the advisory board for the Midori Center for Community Engagement, and has been a guest speaker at the University of the Pacific’s Arts Administration Program. She served as a mentor for the Arts in Crisis program of the Kennedy Center for the Arts and was on Sacramento Mayor Kevin Johnson’s committee “For Art’s Sake.” Currently, she is secretary of the Board for the California Association of Nonprofits and serves on its public policy committee. Sinclair attended schools in England and at the College of
William and Mary. Early career experience included stints in investing and marketing. 

[Download photo here.]

The Association of California Symphony Orchestras (ACSO) provides essential leadership and resources to classical music producers and presenters, encouraging and supporting their artistic, organization and fiscal development. As the collective force for orchestras in California and the region, ACSO is the voice, forum and network serving its more than 300 members, and is the preeminent leader connecting and advocating for its members. ACSO was founded in 1969 as a means of sharing information and resources for California orchestras. Today, ACSO offers countless programs and services; it is the largest state orchestras association in the U.S.

The League of American Orchestras leads, supports, and champions America’s orchestras and the vitality of the music they perform. Its diverse membership of more than 2,000 organizations and individuals across North America runs the gamut from world-renowned symphonies to community groups, from summer festivals to student and youth ensembles, from conservatories to libraries, from businesses serving orchestras to individuals who love symphonic music. The only national organization dedicated solely to the orchestral experience, the League is a nexus of knowledge and innovation, advocacy, and leadership advancement. Its conferences and events, award-winning Symphony magazine, website, and other publications inform people around the world about orchestral activity and developments. Founded in 1942 and chartered by Congress in 1962, the League links a national network of thousands of instrumentalists, conductors, managers and administrators, board members, volunteers, and business partners. Visit americanorchestras.org.

# # #