New York, NY (July 20, 2016) – In poignant and timely demonstrations of music’s capacity to offer solace and reflection, orchestras across the country are spontaneously organizing impromptu concerts and events when tragedy strikes.

“In the age of the 24-hour news cycle, when news flashes across the planet in seconds,” says Symphony Editor in Chief Robert Sandla, “orchestras are finding ways to respond to events outside the concert hall rapidly, using music, heartfelt commentary, and moments of silence to offer consolation and express solidarity with their communities. We’re seeing this at orchestras across the country, from Washington, D.C., to Colorado Springs, to Santa Cruz. These collective endeavors are often practical, as when orchestras hold benefit concerts for victims of natural disasters in their hometown or support relief efforts for political refugees. These efforts are perhaps the most visible of the new ways that orchestras are connecting with their communities right now.”

The Summer issue of Symphony focuses on the new work of orchestras from multiple perspectives, examining the phenomenon of American orchestras partnering with hip-hop artists; investigating orchestras’ efforts to build alliances with elected officials by
demonstrating their roles in enhancing quality of life; and reporting on the explosion of educational activities by orchestras in Germany, where a love of classical music can no longer be taken for granted.

_Symphony_ is available in print, or read it free of charge online at https://issuu.com/americanorchestras/docs/symphony_summer_2016

_Symphony’s_ full Summer article line-up includes:

**Orchestras Responding to Crises**: When tragedy strikes, orchestras can harness the power of music to help communities heal. By Susan Elliott

**“We Belong Here”**: Examining the phenomenon of hip-hop at the symphony. By Winston Cook-Wilson

**Engagement Fever**: An explosion of educational activities in Germany is changing the country’s orchestral landscape. By Rebecca Schmid

**In Concert with City Hall**: The importance of keeping orchestras in the sights of hometown political figures. By Steven Brown

**Commission, She Wrote**: Julia Adolphe and Melody Eötvös share their experiences as the first two composers in a groundbreaking new League of American Orchestras program for female composers.

**Plus…**

**Critical Questions**: Jesse Rosen, the League’s President and CEO, speaks with the Oregon Shakespeare Festival’s Bill Rauch about keeping the canon relevant.

**Board Room**: How can orchestra boards become A+ boards? BoardSource’s _Leading with Intent_ shares key findings and provides guidance.

**Coda**: Two years ago, violist Marlea Simpson won a Project Inclusion fellowship from the Chicago Sinfonietta. Then she was hired as the ensemble’s principal viola – while still a conservatory student.

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.