



League of American Orchestras  
Rachelle Schlosser  
Director of Media Relations and  
Communications  
[rschlosser@americanorchestras.org](mailto:rschlosser@americanorchestras.org)  
646 822 4027  
Twitter: @rschlosserpr, @OrchLeague

Ford Motor Company Fund  
Todd Nissen  
Director of Communications  
[tnissen@ford.com](mailto:tnissen@ford.com)  
313 322 4898

NEWS

**Five Exemplary Musicians to Receive  
The Ford Musician Awards for Excellence in Community Service,  
A New Program of the League of American Orchestras  
Made Possible by Ford Motor Company Fund**

**Award Recipients to Participate in the  
League's National Conference in Baltimore, June 9-11**

New York, NY (April 21, 2016) – The League of American Orchestras has selected five exemplary orchestra musicians to receive The **Ford Musician Awards for Excellence in Community Service**. A new program made possible by Ford Motor Company Fund, the awards celebrate orchestra musicians and the essential work they do in their communities.

The award recipients and their orchestras are:

- [Penny Anderson Brill](#), viola – Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra's Music and Wellness Program
- [Shannon Orme](#), bass clarinet – Detroit Symphony Orchestra's Neighborhood Residency Initiative
- [Jeffrey Paul](#), Principal Oboe – South Dakota Symphony Orchestra's Lakota Music Project
- [Brian Precht](#), percussion – Baltimore Symphony Orchestra's OrchKids
- [Beth Vandervennet](#), cello – Oakland Symphony's Music for Excellence Program (MUSE)

"These five musicians serve as models and mentors to the entire orchestra field," said Jesse Rosen, the League of American Orchestras' President and CEO. "Their

# League of American Orchestras

commitment and dedicated work, whether by inspiring under-served students, bringing comfort in healthcare settings, or bridging cultures through their artistry, is on the leading edge of orchestras' service to their communities. We are grateful to Ford Motor Company Fund for helping support this vital program and for enabling us to publicly acknowledge and share the important work of these musicians."

"It is a pleasure to honor these dedicated musicians who bring the joy of music from the stage to the community," said Yisel Cabrera, community relations manager, Ford Motor Company Fund and Community Services. "Thank you for taking the extra steps to entertain, educate and lift people's spirits. Bravo!"

The five orchestra musicians were selected by a panel of industry professionals through a competitive nomination process to receive the awards. They include a \$2,500 grant to each musician, as well as an additional \$2,500 grant to their home orchestra to support professional development focused on community service and engagement for its musicians.

The awardees and their orchestras will receive their awards at the League's National Conference in Baltimore, June 9-11, 2016. The musicians will also participate in a Conference presentation and separate webinar, providing the orchestra field opportunities to learn from their experience.

Community work is defined as meaningful service through music: education and community engagement programs at schools, hospitals, retirement homes, community and social service centers, places of worship, and wherever people gather for civic, cultural, and social engagement. Those served may include low-income or at-risk populations, homebound elderly, immigrants, veterans, prisoners, and students of all ages, as well as members of the general public who may not otherwise have access to or are not traditionally served by orchestras.

The Ford Musician Awards for Excellence in Community Service mark the League's second partnership with Ford Motor Company Fund, which was previously the title sponsor of Ford Made in America, the largest commissioning consortium in the country's history.

[Information on the Conference session featuring the award recipients](#)

[Information on how to register for the League's National Conference](#)

---

**About Ford Motor Company Fund and Community Services**

Ford Motor Company Fund and Community Services works with community and global partners to advance driving safety, education and community life. Ford Motor Company Fund has operated for more than 65 years with ongoing funding from Ford Motor Company. Ford Driving Skills for Life is free, interactive, hands-on safety training focused on skill development and driving techniques, while addressing inexperience, distractions and impaired driving. Innovation in education is encouraged through Ford Blue Oval Scholars, Ford Driving Dreams, Ford Next Generation Learning and other innovative programs that enhance high school learning and provide college scholarships and university grants. The Ford Volunteer Corps enlists more than 30,000 Ford employees and retirees each year to work on local projects that strengthen their communities and improve people's lives in more than 40 countries around the world. For more information, visit <http://community.ford.com>.

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](http://americanorchestras.org).

# # #