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**Jesse Rosen,
League of American Orchestras' President and CEO,
to Retire in September 2020**

Recruitment and Selection Committee Formed

New York, NY (June 4, 2019) – The League of American Orchestras announced today that Jesse Rosen, President and CEO of the League of American Orchestras, has extended his contract through September 2020, at which time he will retire from the League.

“By September 2020, I will have been at the League for twenty-two years and CEO for twelve,” Rosen said in his remarks to delegates during the League’s 74th National Conference in Nashville. “I’ve had an enormously fulfilling experience, but it’s time to begin thinking about the next chapter. The orchestra community has been a source of deep satisfaction and joy, and I’d like to remain a part of it in some new and different way.”

He added, “The League is in very good shape thanks to its strong staff and its wise and engaged board. I know the transition ahead will be managed superbly.”

Rosen will leave behind a strong organization, which, under his leadership, empowered orchestra leaders across the U.S. to better navigate a rapidly changing environment. He used his platform as League CEO to advocate passionately before policy-makers, the media, and funders for the relevance and public value of orchestras while continually challenging League members to authentically engage with their communities.

“Jesse uses his keen insights about orchestras’ roles in their communities to anticipate future challenges so we can prepare for them,” stated Douglas M. Hagerman, Chair of the League’s Board of Directors. “He shows us how to ‘see around corners.’”

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“We are very fortunate,” Hagerman continued, “to have continuity of executive leadership, an engaged board, membership support, relevant programs, and good fiscal health. The League is stable, well-capitalized, operationally strong, and has a great senior team. Jesse has set us up for success by implementing multi-year fundraising plans, ensuring we have strong cash flow and balances, relocating the office, and updating our technology infrastructure. We are on a very positive path and the selection of a new CEO is just the next step down that path.”

Hagerman and the Board of Directors have formed a Recruitment and Selection Committee, which intends to select a new CEO by September 2020.

Rosen joined the League in 1998 as Vice President, Professional and Artistic Services, and was subsequently appointed Chief Program Officer, Executive Vice President and Managing Director in 2006, and President and CEO in 2008. He previously served as General Manager of the Seattle Symphony, Executive Director of the American Composers Orchestra, and Orchestra Manager of the New York Philharmonic.

Under Rosen’s leadership, the League has advocated for orchestras’ deeper engagement with communities; renewed efforts to address equity, diversity, and inclusion; greater discipline in relation to fiscal health; increased use of data to inform decision-making; stronger governance practices; and innovation and experimentation in the field.

Rosen oversaw the production of major field research and publications including *Reimagining the Orchestra Subscription Model*; *Fearless Journeys: Innovation in American Orchestras*; *Racial, Ethnic and Gender Diversity in the Orchestra Field*; and *Effective Orchestra Governance*. He launched national initiatives supporting composers, conductors, and instrumentalists including *Ford Made in America*, the largest-ever orchestra commissioning consortium; the *Music Alive* composer residency program; the *Ford Musician Awards for Excellence in Community Service*; the *Women Composers Readings and Commissions Program*; and the *American Conducting Fellowship Program*.

In the past year, Rosen was instrumental in the launch of two new League programs that support orchestras’ efforts to become more inclusive organizations: *The Catalyst Fund*, a three-year program of annual grants to orchestras that aims to advance their understanding of equity, diversity, and inclusion and to foster effective EDI practices; and the *National Alliance for Audition Support*, a national initiative to increase diversity in American orchestras by offering Black and Latinx musicians a

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combination of mentoring, audition preparation, and financial support. NAAS is a partnership with The Sphinx Organization and the New World Symphony.

[Read more about Rosen's tenure and achievements in this bio.](#)

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 orchestras 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.

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