On February 24, Russia invaded Ukraine. Orchestras all over the world responded to the crisis rapidly, and showed their support for Ukraine by performing the Ukrainian National Anthem, adding compositions by Ukrainian composers, lighting their concert halls in the blue and yellow colors of the Ukraine flag, and hosting concerts to raise money for humanitarian assistance to Ukrainian citizens and refugees. Heart-rending images of music-making flooded the internet: cellist Denys Karachevtsev playing Bach in the bombed-out city of Kharkiv; the Kyiv-Classic Symphony Orchestra performing in a frigid Maidan Square in Kyiv. The war also had an immediate impact on concert programs in Europe and the U.S. Yannick Nézet-Séguin and David Robertson stepped in to conduct Vienna Philharmonic concerts at Carnegie Hall in New York and at Artis—Naples in Florida, after Russian conductor Valery Gergiev was removed from that tour. Gergiev has long publicly supported Russian President Vladimir Putin, including during the country’s military incursions in eastern Ukraine and Syria. Gergiev’s contract as principal conductor at the Munich Philharmonic was terminated, and other orchestras also severed ties with the conductor. Anna Rakitina, assistant conductor of the Boston Symphony Orchestra, stepped in to conduct two New York Philharmonic concerts originally scheduled to be led by Russian conductor Tugan Sokhiev, who resigned his positions as music director of the Bolshoi Theater in Moscow and France’s Orchestre National du Capitole in Toulouse, rather than publicly clarify his position on the war.
In the wake of the Russian invasion, on March 6 the League of American Orchestras issued a statement in support of Ukraine. The statement, posted at https://americanorchestras.org/solidarity-with-ukraine/, is being regularly updated with links to examples of American orchestras that are supporting Ukraine, which at press time included 28 ensembles. The statement appears below:

Dear Colleagues,

The Russian invasion of Ukraine is a betrayal of humanity. In the face of this attack on an independent nation, with innocent citizens being killed, maimed, or forced to flee their homes, we may feel powerless as arts organizations to make a difference. Nonetheless, this past week the classical music world has moved swiftly to respond to unfolding events and many American orchestras have expressed their solidarity with the people of Ukraine in powerful ways.

Music at its very core stands for humanity, peace, freedom of expression, and for coming together above personal difference. As a sector we will continue to use our voice and our art to stand up for dignity and safety in the face of oppression.

The League of American Orchestras has brought together on this page some examples of how orchestras are supporting Ukraine in this tragic moment.

Sharing artistry and using the power of music to support peace and understanding are ways orchestras can help now and in the weeks ahead. One resource orchestras might find helpful is the Ukrainian Scores project, which provides musical scores by Ukrainian composers. We invite orchestras to highlight their artistic responses by sending an email to advocacy@americanorchestras.org with a link to your orchestra’s action.

The U.S. Department of State is highlighting a gofundme campaign for a Ukrainian Humanitarian Fund as one centralized fundraising effort, which also includes links to individual, verified nonprofit humanitarian organizations.

We will continue to update this page and keep you informed about other ways you can help.

With best wishes,

Simon Woods
President and CEO
League of American Orchestras

New Chair at the NEA

On December 18, 2021, the U.S. Senate confirmed Maria Rosario Jackson as the 13th chair of the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA). Jackson is the first NEA chair to be an African American and Mexican American woman. She is a professor in the Herberger Institute for Design and the Arts at Arizona State University, where she also holds an appointment in the Watts College of Public Service and Community Solutions. Jackson holds a doctorate in urban planning from the University of California, Los Angeles and a master of public administration degree from the University of Southern California. Her work appears in professional and academic publications, and she has been an advisor to numerous foundations. “The work of the NEA and the need for arts and creativity are more important now than ever,” Jackson stated. “In addition to serving as an economic engine, arts and creativity are core to what it takes to heal our nation, our communities, and ourselves.” In February, the Senate also confirmed Shelly C. Lowe lead the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH), making Lowe the first Native American to lead the NEH.

Championing Music Education

The Illinois Philharmonic Orchestra recently honored longtime board member Marilynn Tannebaum by naming its new music education program after her. The Marilynn Tannenbaum Youth Music Education Institute is now the umbrella for IPO’s youth-education programs, which aim to make instrumental programs accessible to young people through experiences with professional musicians. The orchestra surprised Tannenbaum with the announcement during a concert at Olympia Fields Country Club. Tannenbaum attended her first IPO concert in the 1980s, routinely brought members of the orchestra into the Park Forest school where she was principal, and worked to create a full youth concert for students from Chicago’s South Suburbs. Tannenbaum joined IPO’s board of directors in 1988 and became board president in 1993; she has continued to champion music and education for three decades, serving on the boards of the IPO and the Suburban Youth Symphony Orchestra. Said IPO Executive Director Christina Salerno, “The Institute will be a vehicle for IPO to attract wider community support for youth music programming, thereby increasing opportunities for all children.”
Hear Her Voice

New works by women composers were increasingly performed by orchestras this winter, thanks in part to the Virginia B. Toulmin Foundation Orchestral Commissions Program for women composers, an initiative of the League of American Orchestras, in partnership with American Composers Orchestra. In February, the Houston-based ROCO (formerly River Oaks Chamber Orchestra) played the world premiere of Leanna Primiani’s *Neither man nor money validate my worth*, led by guest conductor Sarah Hicks. In early March, the San Francisco Symphony gave the first performances of Fang Man’s *Song of the Flaming Phoenix*: Concerto for Sheng and Orchestra, conducted by Music Director Esa-Pekka Salonen, with Wu Wei as the sheng soloist. In mid-March, the St. Louis Symphony Orchestra, led by Music Director Stéphane Denève, premiered Stacy Garrop’s *Goddess Triptych*. What’s ahead for the Toulmin program? World premieres by Cindy Cox at the Saint Paul Chamber Orchestra and by Wang Jie at the Buffalo Philharmonic in May and June—with more to come.

MUSIC ON TAP

During the pandemic, the New Bedford Symphony Orchestra in Massachusetts has taken a flexible approach, presenting concerts however and wherever it is safe to do so, from outdoor events in city parks to performances in a design showroom in the city’s seaport district. One sign of the changing times: in March, the orchestra’s “Symphony on Tap” concerts returned to Kilburn Mill, an event space in a former textile mill overlooking Clark’s Cove, near downtown New Bedford. One-hour concerts in the series feature the full orchestra performing in a nightclub setting; doors open an hour before the concert for cocktails, craft beer, and food, and the space stays open an hour afterward for audience members to mingle with musicians and Music Director Yaniv Dinur. In March, attendees were required to provide proof of full vaccination or documentation of a negative COVID-19 test.
Silent-Movie Music in Cleveland

In February, Cleveland Orchestra musicians and students at Oberlin Conservatory were among the participants in the inaugural Cleveland Silent Film Festival and Colloquium: Music That Once Filled the Silence. Emily Laurance, a visiting associate professor of musicology at Oberlin Conservatory, came up with the idea for the weeklong festival, which also featured the five-member Mont Alto Motion Picture Orchestra—which performs silent-film repertoire—and its music director, Rodney Sauer. Violinist Isabel Trautwein and other Cleveland Orchestra musicians joined Mont Alto in music by John Stepan Zamecnik (1872-1953), an American composer best known for writing music to accompany silent films, and his mentor, Antonín Dvořák. The Mont Alto orchestra performed Zamecnik’s music during screenings of the Buster Keaton classic Steamboat Bill, Jr. and other silent films at Northeast Ohio venues that included Cleveland’s 1928 Hermit Club, the Cleveland Institute of Art Cinematheque, and Oberlin’s restored Apollo Theater. During the festival, Sauer coached Oberlin Conservatory on the art of choosing, arranging, and performing historic silent-movie scores, once known as “photoplay” music.
GAME TIME

Not one but two Los Angeles-based youth orchestras were featured as part of this year’s Super Bowl at the new SoFi Stadium in Inglewood, California. Three days before the Super Bowl, the Inner City Youth Orchestra of Los Angeles (ICYOLA) made television history when it became the first full orchestra to perform on the annual NFL Honors Show. The show—aired live on ABC, ESPN+, and the NFL Network—featured the orchestra in pre-show performances of Aaron Copland’s Fanfare for the Common Man, William Walton’s Crown Imperial, and John Williams’s Superman March and Star Wars main theme. During the Honors Show itself, the orchestra played music by David Robidoux, who has composed for NFL Films. Founded in 2009, ICYOLA performs in venues throughout Los Angeles. On game day at SoFi Stadium, the Los Angeles Philharmonic’s YOLA (Youth Orchestra Los Angeles) performed “Lift Every Voice and Sing” with gospel duo MARY MARY, conducted by Thomas Wilkins, principal conductor of the LA Phil’s Hollywood Bowl Orchestra. By the way, a few hours later the home team won the football game—in overtime.

Name Changes

Orchestras in Indiana, New Jersey, and California recently changed their names. The Muncie Symphony Orchestra has merged with the Marion Philharmonic to become Orchestra Indiana. The Montclair Orchestra—based in the New York City suburb of Montclair, New Jersey—is now APEX Ensemble. And Symphony Silicon Valley in California was renamed Symphony San Jose, after the city where it performs. Orchestra Indiana’s executive director is Scott Watkins, who previously held that position in Muncie; the two organizations will share administration and a combined board of directors, with concerts in both cities planned for the 2022-23 season, with conductor Matthew Kraemer as artistic advisor. In announcing the merger, officials from the Marion and Muncie orchestras said the merger will allow the ensembles to share programming, be more operationally sustainable, and enhance programming and performances in their hometowns. Andre Weker is founder and president of the APEX Ensemble; its music director is David Chan, concertmaster of the Metropolitan Opera Orchestra. Student musicians associated with APEX rehearse and perform side by side with musicians from the Met and New York Philharmonic. The changes come as APEX plans to expand its youth programs this fall.

Made in Madison

The Wisconsin Chamber Orchestra gave the first-ever performance of composer in residence Bill Banfield’s Symphony No. 8 in January—but it was a world premiere with a surprisingly long history. Based on the life of Black bass-baritone and activist Paul Robeson, Banfield eighth’s symphony, Where I Stand, was commissioned in 2000 by the New England Conservatory of Music. The work’s premiere never happened at the Conservatory, and eventually the digital score vanished in a technology upgrade. Banfield’s copyist, Peter Kienle, tracked down the score, and on January 28 Music Director Andrew Sewell led the Wisconsin Chamber Orchestra in the work’s long-delayed debut at Madison’s Overture Center. Banfield hit the ground running when he started his three-year term as the WCO’s inaugural composer in residence last summer, meeting with students and speaking with audiences. “As a visiting musician, one of the first stops should be the local high schools,” Banfield told Madison’s Cap Times, “because if I’m going to make music that matters, it has to connect.” Banfield will write two pieces for the WCO during his residency: a work featuring the words of Frederick Douglass for this summer, and a symphony for 2024.
Mark Williams Named CEO at Toronto Symphony

The Toronto Symphony Orchestra has appointed Mark Williams as chief executive officer. He succeeds Matthew Loden, who became dean of Rice University’s Shepherd School of Music in October. Williams goes to the Toronto Symphony from the Cleveland Orchestra, where he was chief artistic and operations officer, overseeing artistic planning and programming, commissions and premieres, touring, and orchestra operations. Before joining the Cleveland Orchestra in 2013, Williams was artistic administrator of the San Francisco Symphony from 2009 to 2012, and directed programming of series, co-produced staged operas, and led casting. He began his career in artist management, holding posts at Columbia Artists Management and IMG Artists. A native of Ohio, Williams holds a bachelor of music degree in horn performance from the Cleveland Institute of Music and Case Western Reserve University. Williams stated that the Toronto Symphony “is an orchestra with immense musical gifts, big ambitions, limitless energy, and a desire to connect with its community through music.”

SECOND GENTLEMAN GETS MUSICAL

When Vice President Kamala Harris toured Milwaukee in January, her husband, Doug Emhoff, visited the Milwaukee Youth Arts Center (MYAC) to highlight the federal COVID-19 relief grants that helped the arts center remain open and organizations such as the Milwaukee Youth Symphony Orchestra (MYSO) and First Stage to keep operating during the pandemic. Emhoff met with the leaders of MYAC, MYSO, and First Stage, and young musicians from the Milwaukee Youth Symphony spoke about what the arts mean to them. Noor Salameh, a cellist in the youth orchestra’s Senior Symphony, talked about her volunteer work with Progressions, an intensive string training program for third- and fourth-graders, and how she views classical music training and orchestral ensembles as examples of equity in education, with everyone learning and working towards a shared goal. Clark Snavely, concertmaster of the Senior Symphony, said, “It would have been hard to make it through the height of the pandemic without MYSO.” Emhoff stated that a background in the arts would serve the students well, wherever their career paths might lead.

Career Boost

Over the years, the Avery Fisher Career Grants have helped to launch the careers of some 166 outstanding young musicians. This year’s grants broke new instrumental ground: for the first time, awards went to a percussionist and a saxophone player. The 2022 Career Grant recipients are: Steven Banks, saxophone; Randall Goosby, violin; Ji Su Jung, marimba and solo percussion; Mackenzie Melemed, piano; and Jonathan Swensen, cello. The winners were announced on March 22 at the Jerome L. Greene Performance Space in Manhattan, where the musicians gave a concert that was livestreamed on classical music station WQXR. The Career Grants of the Avery Fisher Artist Program give professional assistance and recognition to talented emerging instrumentalists. Each recipient is given an award of $25,000, to be used for advancing a career. Additionally, the recipients’ performances at the Career Grant announcement are professionally recorded for their unrestricted use, posted online, webcast live, and later broadcast and streamed by WQXR.
IN MEMORIAM: HUGH WILSON LONG, LEAGUE BOARD MEMBER AND LOUISIANA PHILHARMONIC BOARD PRESIDENT

Hugh Long, a champion of orchestras and a member of the Boards of Directors of the League of American Orchestras and the Louisiana Philharmonic, died on March 2, 2022, in a snowmobile accident in Yellowstone National Park. He was 82. His service to the League, to the Louisiana Philharmonic, and to the cause of orchestral music was exemplary.

Long was elected to the League’s Board of Directors in June 2010 and served three terms; he would have begun his fourth term in June 2022. Highly active on the League’s board, he served as chairman of the Program Committee (previously the Knowledge, Learning, and Leadership Committee) and was a member of the Executive, Human Resources, Audit, Investment, Finance, and Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion committees. “Hugh Long was a treasured member of the League’s board,” said League President and CEO Simon Woods. “He was a gracious and insightful presence, and he was deeply committed to the League’s mission and to the whole orchestral field. He was a great friend to many other League board members, and was a tireless supporter of the League’s staff. We thank him for everything he did for us and send deepest condolences to his family and to everyone at the Louisiana Philharmonic.”

Music played a major role in Long’s life, and he served as a trustee and president of the Louisiana Philharmonic Orchestra’s Board of Directors. In a statement, Anwar Nasir, executive director of the Louisiana Philharmonic, commented, “The Louisiana Philharmonic Orchestra is deeply sorry to announce the passing of Dr. Hugh Long, a longtime board member, colleague, mentor, advocate, and friend. In addition to serving on the boards of the LPO and the League of American Orchestras, Hugh was a long-time professor of health policy and management, and a renowned health policy and finance scholar at Tulane University.... Hugh was so giving of his time as our longest-serving board president, from 2001 to 2016, and as treasurer for an additional five years. Whether sharing his keen sense of strategy, financial and governance acumen, or passion for a good concert, Hugh could always be counted on as a leader, a mentor, a teacher, and a friend.”

Long is survived by his wife, Susan Krinsky; a son, Benjamin Alan Long; a daughter, Kira Nicole Long; a sister, Amanya Wasserman; and three grandchildren.
The St. Louis Symphony Orchestra has named **YOLANDA ALOVOR** to the newly created post of vice president of external affairs and equity, diversity, and inclusion.

Canada’s National Arts Centre Orchestra has appointed **DANIEL BARTHOLOMEW-POYSER** as its principal youth conductor and creative partner.

The Raymond F. Kravis Center for the Performing Arts in West Palm Beach, Florida has selected **PHILLIP BERGMANN** as artistic advisor for classical music.

The Oklahoma City Philharmonic has appointed **MARK BEUTLER** as director of marketing and public relations.

The El Paso Symphony Youth Orchestra has named **NATHAN BLACK** general manager, effective May 1.

Virginia’s Petersburg Symphony Orchestra has selected conductor and violinist **NAIMA BURRS** as music director, succeeding Ulysses Kirksey, who died in August 2021.

The Williamsburg Symphony Orchestra in Virginia has named **MICHAEL BUTTERMAN** as music director, effective with the 2022-23 season. Butterman also holds music director posts at the Boulder Philharmonic, Pennsylvania Philharmonic, and Shreveport Symphony.

**PATRICK CHAMBERLAIN** has been hired as the Aspen Music Festival and School’s vice president of artistic administration.

California’s Pacific Symphony has appointed **GARRETT COLLINS** as vice president of marketing and communications.

The Fort Worth Symphony Orchestra has named **JOSHUA ELMORE** to the post of principal bassoonist.

**JULIE GIBBS** has been appointed vice president and chief philanthropy officer of the St. Louis Symphony Orchestra.

**LINA GONZALEZ-GRANADOS** has been hired as concertmaster of the Chamber Orchestra of New York.

**LARA KHALIKOV** has been named executive director of the Chattanooga Symphony and Opera.

**MATTHEW SALVAGGIO** has been selected as the Colorado Symphony’s principal conductor. Oundjian has served as the orchestra’s artistic consultant for the past two seasons.

The Fort Worth Symphony Orchestra has appointed **DAVID PALMER** as interim executive director and **CAROLINE KINSEY** as general manager.

**MANDY PETERSON-TICE** has joined the Alabama Symphony Orchestra as director of development.

**CARLOS MIGUEL PRIETO** has been appointed music director of the North Carolina Symphony, effective with the 2023-24 season. He is currently the orchestra’s artistic advisor and will serve as music director designate in 2022-23.

Wisconsin’s Madison Symphony Orchestra has tapped **ROBERT REED** as executive director, effective June 6, 2022.

The Erie Junior Philharmonic in Pennsylvania has named **MATTHEW SALVAGGIO** as music director.

The Boston Symphony Orchestra has announced staffing changes at Tanglewood. **ASADOUR SANTOURIAN** has been hired as vice president, Tanglewood Music Center and Learning. Santourian was previously the Aspen Music Festival and School’s vice president of artistic administration. **MAUREEN FLORES** is the orchestra’s new chief development officer. Stepping down are Tanglewood Music Center Director Ellen Highstein and Tanglewood Learning Institute Director Sue Elliott.

The Chautauqua Institution in New York State has named **LAURA SAVIA** as vice president of performing and visual arts, overseeing the summer Amphitheater concert series and resident Chautauqua Symphony Orchestra, among other programs.

**SYDNEY SCHLESS** has been selected as the Kalamazoo Symphony Orchestra’s director of marketing.

The Springfield Symphony Orchestra [Massachusetts] has hired **PAUL LAMBERT** as interim executive director; previous interim executive director John Anz stepped down in December.

**LARRY H. LANG** as executive director.

The League of American Orchestras’ Emeritus Board has added three members: **LOWELL J. NOTEBOOM, ANNE PARSONS, and STEVEN C. PARRISH**. [Note: Anne Parsons, the former president and CEO of the Detroit Symphony Orchestra, died in late March, as this issue of Symphony went to press. The League’s Emeritus Board continues to list its members posthumously. Symphony will report on Parsons’ life and career in the summer issue.]

**PETER OUNDJIAN** has been named the Colorado Symphony’s principal conductor. Oundjian has served as the orchestra’s artistic consultant for the past two seasons.

The Hot Springs [Arkansas] Music Festival has appointed **DANIEL KHALIKOV** as executive director.

**DANIEL BARTHOLOMEW-POYSER** has been named chief executive officer of the St. Louis Symphony Orchestra.

The Springfield Symphony Orchestra has appointed **CRAIG WHITEHEAD** as interim CEO, after Emma Dunch stepped down in December.