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League of American Orchestras Forms Student Leadership Council, the First in the Organization's 81-Year History

Five Students will Bring their Voices to the League's Strategic Thinking, Develop Content for the Student Constituency, and Help Create Pathways for a New Generation of Professionals

New York, NY (November 2, 2023) – The League of American Orchestras has formed a [Student Leadership Council](#), the first in the organization's 81 years, to provide a platform for the League to better understand and integrate the voices of young people into its work and support the growth of student engagement within the orchestra field. The new Council is part of a renewed commitment to grow participation by young people and incorporate their ideas into the League's work, as outlined in the recently released [Strategic Framework 2023-2026](#).

"It has so often been proven to me that young people hold the answers about the future," said Simon Woods, the League's President and CEO. "Not only do they bring creative thinking and fresh ideas, but they also view the world through the lens of fairness and equity, which is so vital for our field. They will be the next generation of orchestra musicians, staff, audience members, donors, and volunteers, so we need to be listening to them now if we are to future-proof our field for the coming generation."

Five high school, college, and graduate students from across the country—Lorin Green, Julia Jacobsen, William Ryan, Max Stephenson, and Lauren Zwonik—have been selected to serve on the 2023-24 Student Leadership Council this season.

The students will participate in quarterly council meetings and take on leadership roles in a number of areas including:

- For the League’s Student Constituency, assume responsibility for:
 - Membership growth, benefits, surveys, and engagement on the League’s communications platform League360
 - Student marketing and recruitment, including for the League’s 2024 National Conference in Houston
 - Programming for both virtual Constituency Meetings as well as in-person at the Conference
- Advocate for increased visibility of youth voice and perspective by the League
- Serve as ambassadors in League academic and orchestral partnership expansion
- Collaborate with the League in strategically building inclusive pathways for a new generation of diverse and creative professionals to enter the orchestra field and flourish as leaders
- Promote a thriving future for orchestras

Under Woods, the League brought youth perspectives to the organization’s recent National Conference in Pittsburgh when, for the first time, over 1,000 delegates heard from students in a [Closing Plenary](#). Students were also featured in the highly-rated session, [Youth Perspectives on Engaging with Orchestras](#). Future plans to extend the League’s engagement with students include collaborations with music schools, conservatories, and orchestras.

Members of the 2023-24 student leadership council are:

Lorin Green, DMA ’25 (Flute Performance), University of Washington; Community Relations Manager, Seattle Symphony; Executive Director, Sound Salon; Panelist, League of American Orchestras 2023 National Conference; League of American Orchestras’ Essentials of Orchestra Management, 2023

Julia Jacobsen, BM '25, BS '25 (Violin Performance and Marketing), University of South Carolina; Student Digital Marketing Coordinator, USC School of Music; Marketing & Design Assistant, Social Media Coordinator, Boulanger Initiative

William Ryan, '24, Burncoat High School; Composer, Violinist and Concertmaster, High School Orchestra, Worcester Youth Orchestra, and Joy of Music Youth Orchestra; Panelist, League of American Orchestras 2023 National Conference

Max Stephenson, BMO '24 (Trumpet, Outside Field in Business with Minor in Marketing), Ithaca College; Operations Manager, Cayuga Chamber Orchestra Youth Orchestra; Operations Manager, World Civic Orchestra; Intern, Cayuga Chamber Orchestra

Lauren Zwonik, DMA '24 (Flute Performance, with Certificate in University Teaching), University of Nevada, Las Vegas; Personnel Manager for the UNLV Opera Orchestra; Treasurer and Board Member, Las Vegas Flute Club; Community Internship Graduate Assistant, Las Vegas Philharmonic; Panelist, League of American Orchestras 2023 National Conference

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 1,800 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 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.