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Seven Dynamic Leaders Join League of American Orchestras Board of Directors

Seven Additional Ex-Officio Directors Elected from League Member Orchestras to serve in 2025-26 and Two Former Board Members Elected to Emeritus Board

New York, NY (August 13, 2025) – **Rei Hotoda, Blake-Anthony Johnson, Barbara McCelvey, Pamela Mayo, Jessica Phillips, Elizabeth Shribman, and Dr. Regynald G. Washington** have joined the League of American Orchestras Board of Directors; each will serve a three-year term. Board officers for 2025-26 are **Alan Mason**, Chair; **Marissa Eisemann, Aaron A. Flagg, and Kjristine Lund**, Co-Vice Chairs; **William L. Gettys**, Secretary, and **Chris Doerr**, Treasurer.

Ex-Officio Directors for 2025-26 are **Martha A. Gilmer**, President and CEO, San Diego Symphony Orchestra—San Diego, CA (Group 1 Managers); **Jennifer Boomgaarden Daoud**, President/CEO, Omaha Symphony Orchestra—Omaha, NE (Group 2 Managers); **Anwar Nasir**, Executive Director, Louisiana Philharmonic Orchestra—New Orleans, LA (Group 3/4 Managers); **Paul Jarrett**, Executive Director, Akron Symphony Orchestra—Akron, OH (Group 5/6); **Elizabeth “Libby” Watson**, Executive Director, Adrian Symphony Orchestra—Adrian, MI (Group 7/8 Managers); **Lindsey Nova**, Executive Director, Three Rivers Young Peoples Orchestras—Pittsburgh, PA (Youth Orchestra Division); and

Darlene Clark, Volunteer Council President, Houston Symphony League—Houston, TX
(Volunteer Council).

Melanie Clarke and **Mary Carr Patton** were elected to the Emeritus Board.

The only national organization dedicated to the orchestras and their communities, the League of American Orchestras includes nearly 25,000 musicians, conductors, orchestra staff, board members, volunteers, and business partners working with a membership of 2,000 world-renowned orchestras, community groups, summer festivals, student and youth ensembles, conservatories and libraries, businesses serving orchestras, and individuals who love symphonic music.

Background on the New Board Members:

Rei Hotoda

Music Director, Fresno Philharmonic (since 2017); Conducted American Composers Orchestra (Carnegie Hall debut); Guest conductor appearances, Symphony orchestras of Chicago, Dallas, Detroit, Winnipeg, Kansas City, and San Diego.

Blake-Anthony Johnson

CEO, New Orleans Jazz & Heritage Festival and Foundation; Former President & CEO, Chicago Sinfonietta; Co-Chair of the Cultural Advisory Council, City of Chicago's Department of Cultural Affairs and Special Events (DCASE); Former Faculty Member, Roosevelt University's Chicago Conservatory of Performing Arts; Performance affiliations as an award-winning cellist, Cincinnati Symphony Orchestra, Nashville Symphony.

Barbara McCelvey

President, Foundation for Jones Hall; President-Elect and Chair of Development Committee, Houston Symphony Society; Past Co-Chair of Grand Teton Music Festival; Past President, Houston Symphony League; Co-Chair of the capital campaign, St. Francis Episcopal Church; Advisory Council Member, Shepherd Society at Rice University; Past President, Friends of the Spring Branch-Memorial Library.

Pamela Mayo

CEO and founder of King's Global Logistics; Member, Ravinia Festival Trustee and Ravinia Festival Women's Board Member; Formerly: Co-Chair, DEI Sub-Committee; Women's Board DEI Committee; fundraising, corporate sponsorship, and community engagement efforts.

Jessica Phillips

Clarinet and E-flat Clarinetist, Metropolitan Opera; Graduate Studies Faculty specializing in Entrepreneurship, The Juilliard School; Consultant, Arts & Culture, 11A Collaborative; Board Member and Member of Artist Services Committee, The Field; Former Member at Large and Governing Board member, ICSOM; Former Executive Board Member, Local 802 American Federation of Musicians; Co-Founder and Former CEO, K&P Strategy; Former Chair of the Met Orchestra Negotiating Committee in 2014 & 2018.

Elizabeth Shribman

Chief Operating Officer, San Francisco Symphony; Former Chief of Staff, San Francisco Symphony; Treasurer and Immediate Past President, Association of California Symphony Orchestras.

Dr. Regynald G. Washington

Board Member, Chicago Sinfonietta; Member, Culinary Institute of America Board of Trustees; Formerly: President, Paradies Lagardere Travel Retail Dining Division; CEO, Hojeij Branded Foods (A Morgan Stanley Private Equity Portfolio Company); Vice President, Global Food & Beverage Operations, Walt Disney Parks and Resorts; Board Chair, National Restaurant Association.

Ex-Officio Board Members:

Jennifer Boomgaarden Daoud

Chair, League of American Orchestras Group 2 Managers; President & CEO, Omaha Symphony; Former Executive Director, South Dakota Symphony Orchestra.

Darlene Clark

Volunteer Council President, League of American Orchestras; Past President, Houston Symphony League and Member, Wine Dinner and Collector's Auction Committee; President-Elect, Salvation Army Women's Auxiliary of Greater Houston; Past President, Friends of Moores School of Music at the University of Houston; Board Member: Texas Association for Symphony Orchestras and Third Space Music.

Martha A. Gilmer

Chair, League of American Orchestras Group 1 Managers; President and CEO, San Diego Symphony Orchestra; Board Member, the Greater San Diego Chamber of Commerce, the

San Diego Tourism Authority, The Solti Foundation, and the Mayor's Civic Revitalization Committee; Former Vice President for Artistic Planning and Audience Development, Chicago Symphony Orchestra.

Paul Jarrett

Chair, League of American Orchestras Group 5/6 Managers; Executive Director, Akron Symphony; Member, Leadership Akron Class 31 and Akron Rotary. Formerly: Managing Director, Apollo's Fire – The Cleveland Baroque Orchestra; Director of Marketing and Public Relations, Cleveland Opera & Opera Cleveland; Advertising Executive, Stern Advertising.

Anwar Nasir

Chair, League of American Orchestras Group 3/4 Managers; Executive Director, Louisiana Philharmonic Orchestra; Member, Syracuse University College of Visual and Performing Arts Young Alumni Council, the Girard College Alumni Association Bylaws Committee, and Co-Chair, the IDEA Committee for the International Ticketing Association (INTIX); Leadership roles: Tessitura Network, and The Greater Omaha Chamber of Commerce; Co-Founder, Black Arts Leadership Alliance supporting African Americans in arts management.

Lindsey Nova

Chair, League of American Orchestra Youth Orchestra Division; Executive Director, Three Rivers Young Peoples Orchestras; Member, Pittsburgh Youth Chorus Board of Directors. Formerly: Member of Artistic Advisory Council, Pittsburgh Public Schools; Board Member, Pittsburgh Jazz Orchestra; Director of Operations, Utah Symphony | Utah Opera; Convention/Editorial staff for CS Music.

Elizabeth “Libby” Watson

Chair, League of American Orchestras Group 7/8 Managers; Executive Director, Adrian Symphony Orchestra; Adjunct Professor of Arts Management, Adrian College.

Emeritus Board Members:

Melanie Clarke

Formerly: Board Secretary (2022-2025), Board Vice Chair (2017-2022), Board Director (2010-2017), League of American Orchestras; Retired, Executive Director, Princeton Symphony Orchestra; Trustee, Highland Center for the Arts.

Mary Carr Patton

Former Board Director, League of American Orchestras (2010-2025); Board of Directors Secretary, New York Pops; Honorary Board Member, Jacksonville Symphony Orchestra.

The **League of American Orchestras** champions the vitality of music and the orchestral experience, supports the orchestra community, and leads change boldly. The only national organization dedicated to orchestras and their communities, the League supports the field through advocacy, research, convenings, leadership development, artistic programs, and grants. Founded in 1942 and chartered by Congress in 1962, the League includes nearly 25,000 musicians, conductors, orchestra staff, board members, volunteers, and business partners working within our membership of 2,000 world-renowned orchestras, community groups, summer festivals, student and youth ensembles, conservatories and libraries, businesses serving orchestras, and individuals who love symphonic music.