

PRESS RELEASE: FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



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Arkansas Symphony Orchestra Announces New Youth Orchestra Director

Little Rock, ARK, July 1, 2021 – The Arkansas Symphony Orchestra has named Gabriel Bruce as the new conductor and director of the Arkansas Symphony Youth Orchestra.

“I am thrilled to have the opportunity to carry on the legacy of musical excellence that has been long established with the Arkansas Symphony Youth Orchestra,” said Bruce. Bruce added he is looking forward to working with Youth Orchestra parents, Arkansas Symphony musicians, and especially the finest students in the state to continue to deliver meaningful educational and musical experiences in the community.

Bruce will work in collaboration with Arkansas Symphony Orchestra Artistic Director, Geoffrey Robson, to program music, rehearse, schedule, and recruit musicians for the elite ensemble of the orchestra’s youth programs. Robson said Bruce will be a strong addition to the ASO team during a period of growth for the state’s orchestra, adding, “Gabriel has the combined attributes of high-level training in orchestral conducting and a deep understanding of the music education landscape in Arkansas.”

Upcoming Youth Orchestra Events

Auditions for the Arkansas Symphony Youth Orchestra are August 30th through September 3rd. For more information about eligibility, audition materials, and tuition, visit ArkansasSymphony.org or call 501-666-1761, ext. 116.

The 2021-2022 Youth Orchestra Spring Residency features violist Jordan Bak, who will be featured as guest soloist with the Youth Orchestra on Friday, April 22, 2022.

The 2021-2022 Side By Side Concert, which features professional musicians from ASO sitting side-by-side with Youth Orchestra musicians, is Sunday, May 1, 2022.

For more information about auditions, the Spring Residency, or the Side By Side Concert call 501-666-1761, ext. 116.

Gabriel Bruce, conductor, Arkansas Symphony Youth Orchestra
<https://www.arkansassymphony.org/gabriel-bruce>

Jordan Bak, Spring Residency Guest Artist
<https://jordanbak.com/>

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About the Arkansas Symphony Youth Orchestra

The Arkansas Symphony Youth Orchestra is the premier group out of three ensembles in Arkansas Symphony's education programs. Students from around the state audition for placement in the group, which performs works from the standard orchestra repertoire. Each year the Youth Orchestra participates in a residency featuring a professional guest artist which includes workshops, masterclasses, and a final public concert featuring the guest artist as a soloist. The Youth Orchestra season concludes with the Side By Side, a program where professional musicians from the Arkansas Symphony perform on stage with the youth orchestra.

About Arkansas Symphony Orchestra

The Arkansas Symphony Orchestra celebrates its 55th full season in 2020-2021. ASO is the resident orchestra of Robinson Center Music Hall. Arkansas Symphony Orchestra performs more than sixty concerts each year for more than 165,000 people through its Stella Boyle Smith Masterworks Series, Acxiom Pops Live! Series, River Rhapsodies Chamber Music Series, and numerous concerts performed around the state of Arkansas, in addition to serving central Arkansas through numerous community outreach programs and bringing live symphonic music education to over 26,000 school children and over 200 schools. ASO's education programs include the Sturgis Music Academy, which provides violin and cello instruction to more than 350 students, and the ASO Youth Ensembles Program, which has nearly 200 students enrolled in two full orchestras and a strings-only ensemble. ASO employs 12 full-time musicians, more than 70 part-time musicians and 15 administrative staff members with an annual operating budget of \$3.5 million. Arkansas Symphony Orchestra is a member of the League of American Orchestras and a partner orchestra of the National Alliance for Audition Support, an unprecedented national initiative to increase diversity in American orchestras.

For more information about the Arkansas Symphony Orchestra call 501-666-1761 or visit www.ArkansasSymphony.org

Program notes, artist bios and high resolution headshots available upon request.

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