



NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Pensacola Symphony Orchestra One of 30 Orchestras Selected to Join League of American Orchestras' New Consortium

Upcoming Concert to Present New Work by Wang Lu

Pensacola, Fla.— Pensacola Symphony Orchestra is one of 30 orchestras taking part in the League of American Orchestras' Virginia B. Toulmin Foundation Orchestral Commissions Program. The unprecedented national consortium ensures that new works by women composers, each commissioned by the League, will be infused in orchestra seasons to come, with multiple performances throughout the country.

The consortium's initial six lead orchestra-composer pairings were previously announced, with more than 80 orchestras applying for the additional 24 spots.

Pensacola Symphony Orchestra will partner with composer Wang Lu for a performance of her new work "Surge."

"I'm thrilled that the Pensacola Symphony has been chosen to participate in this important initiative," said Music Director Peter Rubardt. "The orchestra and I are excited to get to know this composer, both through her music and through her visit."

In recent years, the Pensacola Symphony Orchestra has welcomed a number of women composers, including Gabriela Lena Frank and Libby Larsen, performing their works and inviting them to speak from the stage about their process. Inclusion in the consortium is an extension of this focus on diversity, equity, inclusion and belonging.

The new consortium, comprised of orchestras from 19 states and Canada, includes the following orchestra-composer pairs (lead orchestras in bold):

Akron Symphony Orchestra (Ohio) and Gity Razaz
Aspen Music Festival and School (Colo.) and Wang Lu
Berkeley Symphony (Calif.) and Gity Razaz
Canada's National Arts Centre Orchestra (Ottawa, Ontario) and Gity Razaz
Cincinnati Symphony Orchestra (Ohio) and Wang Lu
Columbus Symphony (Ohio) and Anna Clyne
Dallas Symphony Orchestra (Texas) and Arlene Sierra
Des Moines Symphony (Iowa) and Wang Lu
Detroit Symphony Orchestra (Mich.) (lead orchestra) and Arlene Sierra
Idaho State-Civic Symphony and Sarah Gibson
Illinois Philharmonic Orchestra and Arlene Sierra
Jacksonville Symphony (Fla.) and Angel Lam
Kansas City Symphony (Mo.) (lead orchestra) and Angel Lam
Knoxville Symphony Orchestra (Tenn.) and Sarah Gibson
Lansing Symphony Orchestra (Mich.) and Sarah Gibson
Louisiana Philharmonic Orchestra and Arlene Sierra

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National Symphony Orchestra (Washington D.C.) and Anna Clyne
New York Philharmonic (lead orchestra) and Wang Lu
Orchestra Lumos (Conn.) and Angel Lam
Orlando Philharmonic Orchestra (Fla.) and Anna Clyne
Pensacola Symphony Orchestra (Fla.) and Wang Lu
The Philadelphia Orchestra (Pa.) (lead orchestra) and Anna Clyne
Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra (Pa.) and Sarah Gibson
Portland Columbia Symphony (Ore.) and Anna Clyne
Quad City Symphony Orchestra (Iowa) and Angel Lam
Rochester Philharmonic Orchestra (N.Y.) and Gity Razaz
San Diego Symphony (Calif.) (lead orchestra) and Gity Razaz
Sarasota Orchestra (Fla.) (lead orchestra) and Sarah Gibson
Utah Symphony & Opera and Angel Lam
Wheeling Symphony Orchestra (W.Va.) and Arlene Sierra

Three of the initial premieres have been scheduled, with more performances to be announced.

Wang Lu's "Surge" will be premiered by the New York Philharmonic, Dalia Stasevska conducting, on January 20, 21, and 22, 2023.

Sarah Gibson's "to make this mountain taller" will be premiered by Sarasota Orchestra, Carlos Miguel Prieto conducting, on March 31, April 1, and April 2, 2023.

Gity Razaz's work (title tbd) will be premiered by San Diego Symphony, Rafael Payare conducting, on May 20 and 21, 2023.

The Virginia B. Toulmin Foundation Orchestral Commissions Program is an initiative of the League of American Orchestras, in partnership with American Composers Orchestra (ACO) and supported by the Virginia B. Toulmin Foundation. The program seeks to increase the programming of works by women and nonbinary composers on orchestra stages.

Networking, mentoring, career development, and community engagement opportunities are built into the program. Consortium orchestras were required to demonstrate a commitment to engaging the composers in rehearsals, networking opportunities, and education or community engagement activities, and orchestras receive funds for marketing efforts and to support composer attendance at performances.

As with the original Women Composers Readings and Commissions program, the new program is embedded in EarShot, an initiative of American Composers Orchestra in collaboration with American Composers Forum, the League of American Orchestras and New Music USA. The six commission recipients were selected from women and nonbinary composers who have participated in EarShot residencies.

Read more about the composers on [the League's website](#).

Now in its 97th season, **Pensacola Symphony Orchestra** is dedicated to promoting the well-being of the Greater Pensacola community through excellence in live symphonic music and lifelong learning through engaging musical activities. The orchestra performs numerous concerts each season at the Saenger Theatre as well as free events around the area. Through the organization's Beyond the Stage program for community engagement, musicians share meaningful musical experiences annually in neighborhoods, schools, hospitals, galleries, and palliative care facilities. For more information, visit PensacolaSymphony.com.

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Founded in 1977, **American Composers Orchestra** (ACO) is dedicated to the creation, celebration, performance, and promotion of orchestral music by American composers. With commitment to diversity, disruption and discovery, ACO produces concerts, middle school through college composer education programs, and composer advancement programs to foster a community of creators, audience, performers, collaborators and funders. ACO identifies and develops talent, performs established composers, champions those who are lesser-known, and increases regional, national and international awareness of the infinite variety of American orchestral music, reflecting gender, racial, ethnic, geographic, stylistic and age diversity. To date, ACO has performed music by 800 American composers, including over 350 world premieres and newly commissioned works.

ACO offers an array of programs for emerging composers including its own annual EarShot Readings in New York City, which have served over 350 composers since their inception in 1991 and have been offered in partnership with orchestras across the country in collaboration with the League of American Orchestras, New Music USA and American Composers Forum since 2008. Readings composers have gone on to win every major composition award, including the Pulitzer, Grammy, Grawemeyer, American Academy of Arts and Letters and Rome Prizes.

ACO has received numerous awards for its work, including those from the American Academy of Arts and Letters and from BMI, recognizing the orchestra's outstanding contribution to American music. ASCAP has awarded ACO its annual prize for adventurous programming 35 times, singling out ACO as "the orchestra that has done the most for new American music in the United States." ACO received the inaugural MetLife Award for Excellence in Audience Engagement, and a proclamation from the New York City Council. Read more:

www.americancomposers.org

Now encompassing all of American Composers Orchestra's composer advancement initiatives, **EarShot** is the first ongoing, systematic program for developing relationships between composers and orchestras on the national level. Through orchestral readings, CoLABoratory fellowships, consortium commissions, and professional development, EarShot ensures a vibrant musical future by investing in creativity today.

EarShot Readings, operated in partnership with the American Composers Forum, New Music USA, and the League of American Orchestras, provide professional working experiences with orchestras from every region of the country. Over the last 25 years, EarShot has advanced the careers of more than 275 composers. Alumni include some of the most visible artists in the field: Jesse Montgomery, Carlos Simon, Courtney Bryan, Jennifer Higdon and more. Over half of EarShot composers report that they have received a commission or performance as a direct result of their EarShot Reading, and many have gone on to win every major composition award, including the Pulitzer, Grammy, Grawemeyer, American Academy of Arts & Letters, and Rome Prizes. Orchestras around the globe have commissioned and performed hundreds of works by ACO alumni.

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.

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