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## ASSOCIATION OF CALIFORNIA SYMPHONY ORCHESTRAS BRINGS MUSIC COMMUNITY TOGETHER AT 2025 ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Los Angeles, CA (May 1, 2025) – The Association of California Symphony Orchestras (ACSO) will host its 56th Annual Conference from August 7–9, 2025, at the Hilton Orange County/Costa Mesa, hosted by the Pacific Symphony.

This three-day gathering welcomes 250-300 orchestra professionals for an immersive experience of learning, connection, and collaboration. Attendees will engage with visionary thought leaders and industry experts while gaining practical tools in orchestra administration and nonprofit management.

Through keynote addresses, breakout sessions, peer forums, and networking events, the conference will tackle urgent issues facing orchestras today: cultivating loyal audiences, embracing innovation in programming and technology, strengthening community partnerships, enhancing revenue strategies, and advancing leadership and governance.

### Keynote speakers:

- **Michelle Cann**, Grammy Award-winning pianist and inaugural Eleanor Sokoloff Chair in Piano Studies at the Curtis Institute of Music, will open the conference with a keynote on the power of programming diverse composers to inspire the next generation of audiences. Cann will also perform Beethoven's *Piano Concerto No. 5 "Emperor"* with the Pacific Symphony at its SummerFest concert on August 8 at Great Park Live in Irvine.
- **Dr. Tasha Golden**, PhD, renowned expert in arts, public health, and innovation and adjunct faculty at the University of Florida's Center for Arts in Medicine, will close the conference with a keynote on how orchestras can become essential contributors to community health and well-being.

### Conference highlights:

- Presentation of a special recognition award to **Carl StClair**, celebrating the conclusion of his landmark 35-year tenure as Music Director of the Pacific Symphony.
- A thought-provoking panel on the influence of conservatories on the orchestral canon, moderated by **Kedrick Armstrong**, Music Director of the Oakland Symphony.
- A high-level CEO Roundtable including **Kim Noltemy**, President & CEO of the LA Phil, and **John Forsyte**, President & CEO of the Pacific Symphony.
- A session on the growing impact of video game music in orchestra programming, featuring **Bill Hemstapat**, composer at Riot Games and **Jennifer Miller Hammel**, host/producer of Classical California's *Arcade*.

Registration is now open with rates available for individuals, music organizations, and students. While ACSO primarily serves orchestras in California and the Western U.S., the conference welcomes arts professionals from across the country.

**Sarah Weber**, ACSO Executive Director, said, "We're thrilled to partner with Pacific Symphony to return to Costa Mesa - 'City of the Arts' - for the first time since 2013. This is the only statewide conference of its kind that unites California's music community, offering three days of inspiration and professional growth."

ACSO is a nonprofit arts service organization representing a membership of over 120 music organizations and 3,000 board and administrative leaders throughout California and the Western United States.

For more information and to register, visit [www.acso.org/conference](http://www.acso.org/conference) or contact ACSO at (800) 495-2276 or [office@acso.org](mailto:office@acso.org).