



Alabama Symphony Orchestra

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Alabama Symphony Announces New Assistant Conductor

(Birmingham, AL – May 30, 2023) – The Alabama Symphony Orchestra (ASO) has announced the appointment of Daniel Cho as the Music Director of the Alabama Symphony Youth Orchestra (ASYO) and Assistant Conductor of the Alabama Symphony Orchestra beginning in the 23/24 Season.

Daniel Cho is a Korean-American conductor and violinist, who has proudly served as the Assistant Conductor of Eugene Symphony since 2019, as well as Conducting Fellow of Eugene Ballet and Orchestra NEXT since 2021. Beginning the 22/23 season, Daniel also began his tenure as the Assistant Conductor of the Yakima Symphony in Washington. He has previously held positions as Assistant Conductor of the Oregon Mozart Players and Eugene Opera. Daniel has traveled the United States and served as cover conductor for orchestras around the country, including the Orlando Philharmonic, Virginia Symphony, and Santa Rosa Symphony in California. When not making music, Daniel enjoys reading short stories and fantasy, rewatching the extended editions of the Lord of the Rings movies, and taking long walks with his red golden retriever, Lucy.

Music Director Carlos Izcaray says of the new hire “I’m so proud and excited to welcome Daniel into the ASO family. He was unanimously selected by a committee that represented all the key stakeholders in our organization. I join the musicians, staff, Board of Directors, and our Alabama Symphony Youth Orchestra students in expressing our joy to be able to work with him in bringing exciting performances to our community.”

Education Director Maria Wilson states “I am incredibly thrilled to welcome Daniel to our youth orchestra family and ASO Education Team. I feel sure that he will be an incredible mentor and teacher for our students, as well as an energetic advocate for orchestral music in our schools and state. I look forward to supporting him as he connects with the community and continues to build meaningful relationships with Alabama teachers and schools.”

The Alabama Symphony Youth Orchestra is one of the premiere training ensembles for orchestral music in the state of Alabama. Serving 72 young musicians ages 12-22, membership in the ASYO includes exclusive access to coachings and mentoring by the

musicians of the Alabama Symphony Orchestra who are nationally recognized as top artists in the orchestral music industry. The youth orchestra rehearses weekly and performs masterworks level concerts in the Fall and Spring. Each December, Publix and The Riverchase Galleria sponsor two holiday concert performances for the community, and in the spring, ASYO proudly partners with the Community Foodbank of Central Alabama hosting a food drive as a part of its Spring Concert cycle rehearsals and concert.

About the Alabama Symphony Orchestra

The Alabama Symphony Orchestra has entertained and enriched audiences for over 100 years, playing a variety of classical and popular music and hosting performances by some of the finest guest artists in the world. The formation of the Alabama Symphony Orchestra (ASO) began with the first performance by a group of volunteer musicians in 1921. That group would evolve from a volunteer ensemble to the state's only full-time professional orchestra.

Today, the ASO is continuing to make music and provide vital services to the residents of the state, serving nearly 100,000 individuals a year through concert series, youth programs, and educational and community engagement efforts to fulfill our mission to change lives through music. The 53 talented musicians of the ASO bring to life some of the world's most treasured musical masterpieces and introduce listeners to exciting new works and composers, performing 100 concerts annually.

We proudly work to produce creative, dynamic programming and to be recognized as an artistically innovative leader in the field – winning ASCAP Awards in 2010 and 2011 for Adventurous Programming and Dedication to New American Music and receiving an invitation to perform at Carnegie Hall in May 2012 as a part of the competitive Spring For Music Festival, which is underwritten by a \$1 million grant from the Mellon Foundation.