



# AMERICAN YOUTH SYMPHONY

Come as you are.  
Leave Inspired.

[Month Day, Year]

MUSIC DIRECTOR

[Long Salutation]

[Street Address]

[City, State Zip]

HONORARY PRESIDENT  
Zubin Mehta

Dear [Short Salutation],

FOUNDERS  
Mehli Mehta  
Vildreth Sheinkopf

I am incredibly honored and excited to become the next music director of the American Youth Symphony, an ensemble with a deep history and a bright future in the great city of Los Angeles. As a lifelong devotee of classical music, my journey has led me throughout the world. While I come to AYS as a dedicated cellist, a passionate composer, the current music director of the Alabama Symphony Orchestra, and a regular guest conductor by way of Berlin, Argentina, and my birthplace of Caracas, Venezuela; I come first and foremost as the son of two deeply compassionate music educators and as the father of three young, fledgling musicians.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR  
Varina Bleil

CHAIRMAN EMERITUS  
Herbert M. Gelfand

Fatherhood as well as my upbringing have, without any doubt, led me to AYS. The talent, focus, and precision of AYS musicians have moved me beyond words. Their spirit and tenacity, their musical vivacity, and the fresh perspective they take to their exploration of riveting orchestral works inspire and invigorate classical music audiences, new and seasoned alike. As an elite Fellowship training orchestra that fosters enriching mentorships, AYS and I share a firm belief in the familial responsibility that binds our community with each successive cohort of musicians. It is because of this belief in a musical family that I have worked tirelessly to support the next generation of musicians by having collaborated with leading music education institutions such as Venezuela's El Sistema, Cambridge University Music Society, London Schools Symphony Orchestra, and New World Symphony Orchestra. And it is because of this belief that I cherish the opportunity to contribute to the future of classical music by taking what I view as the natural next step in the progression of my journey and my life -- the American Youth Symphony.

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I am thrilled to guide our musicians both off-stage and on for an exploratory 2016/17 concert season. Featuring several major classical works, our repertoire will prepare AYS musicians for the demands of a 21st century professional orchestra. Such giants as Mozart and Korngold need no introduction, and I am particularly excited to begin the season with Mahler's *Symphony No. 1 (Titan)* on October 16 and to join guitar icon Steve Vai on-stage at Walt Disney Concert Hall on March 11 for a concert that features Stravinsky's *The Rite of Spring*! Whether you're a dyed-by-the-wool aficionado or a classical music newcomer, a fan of music in general or even a videogamer (check out what we have planned for February 12!), there is something for audiences across all music backgrounds this concert season.

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You have been a valued member and generous contributor to our community, for which we have nothing less than the most sincere gratitude. Please, we ask that you continue to support our musicians and our mission, to help us mentor the musical minds of tomorrow and to put a rich, beautiful art form within reach of all audiences. Together, we can make the American Youth Symphony's 52nd concert season the most memorable and inspirational one yet!

With warmest regards,

  
Music Director