

**The San Diego Symphony Orchestra Association
Annual Members Meeting
October 30, 2024**

I. Call to Order

Chair Dave Snyder called the meeting to order via livestream pursuant to notice duly given.

II. Approval of Minutes

Upon motion duly made and seconded, the minutes of the October 26, 2023 meeting were approved as presented.

III. Board Elections

Mr. Snyder reported that Elizabeth Larsen had been appointed by the Board of Directors to serve as Inspector of Elections for the meeting. Mr. Snyder reviewed the process by which the Association maintains a classified Board of Directors, with approximately one-third of the Board standing for re-election each year for a three-year term. Ms. Larsen reported that sufficient proxies had been received to elect the slate of nominees as directors of the Association.

Upon motion duly made and seconded, the election of the following slate of nominees for election as directors for terms expiring at the Annual Meeting of 2027 or until their successors are duly elected was approved as follows: Colette Carson Royston, Kathleen Davis, Arlene Inch, and Kris Kopensky.

Mr. Snyder reported that at the Board of Directors meeting held earlier the same day had voted on the Slate of Officers for the upcoming board year, effective upon conclusion of the Annual Meeting of Members. In addition, Mr. Snyder welcomed two newly elected Board Members, Annette Bradbury and Steve Bjorg, noting their experience and commitment to advancing the Symphony's mission.

IV. State of the Symphony Presentation

Mr. Snyder reported on the significant progress made by the Association during the past year, acknowledging both challenges and triumphs, noting the impacts of the delayed completion of the Jacobs Music Center renovation which required relocating the entire Jacobs Masterworks concert season to alternative venues. Mr. Snyder shared his admiration for the adaptability and professionalism of the Symphony's musicians, staff, and leadership, emphasizing that their resilience allowed the Symphony to thrive under changing and challenging circumstances. Mr. Snyder concluded by noting the orchestra's triumphant return to Jacobs Music Center and expressed confidence that the best is yet to come.

Mr. Snyder reported that preliminary work has begun on the FY26 budget, with staff identifying revenue streams and preparing a deeper analysis to be shared later in the fiscal year.

Mr. Snyder introduced a pre-recorded message from Music Director Rafael Payare. Mr. Payare

highlighted the artistic successes of the past season, including the orchestra's triumphant return to Carnegie Hall and reflected on the Symphony's resilience and artistic achievements during the Jacobs Music Center renovation. Mr. Payare praised the musicians for their adaptability and spirit and expressed gratitude for the loyalty of our audience. Mr. Payare reported on the success of the inaugural California Festival which featured new music across the State of California with the San Diego Symphony, the LA Phil, and San Francisco Orchestra as anchor organizations. Mr. Payare also highlighted the orchestra's partnership with CECUT (Centro Cultural Tijuana), where the Symphony recently performed in a special free concert.

Mr. Payare shared his excitement about the acoustical transformation of the Jacobs Music Center, noting that the hall now matches the artistry of the orchestra. Looking ahead, Mr. Payare emphasized the Symphony's commitment to ambitious programming, new collaborations, and deeper connections with the community.

Mr. Snyder then introduced Martha Gilmer, President and CEO of the San Diego Symphony Orchestra, noting that Ms. Gilmer has agreed to an extension of her contract with the Symphony for an additional five years.

Ms. Gilmer presented a comprehensive review of the 2023–24 season, reflecting on the challenges and successes of the year. Ms. Gilmer stated that the Jacobs Masterworks 2023-24 season brochure, released in February 2023, had announced the reopening of the Jacobs Music Center that fall, noting that by midsummer, however, it became clear that the hall would not be ready, and the Symphony shifted its fall programming to The Rady Shell at Jacobs Park. The summer season showcased 36 concerts presented in just over three months. The opening program centered on the theme of dance and featured works by Bernstein, Rachmaninoff, and Roberto Sierra. Other highlights included collaborations with Cypress Hill and Judy Collins, along with concerts celebrating Joni Mitchell, Carole King, Carly Simon, Gladys Knight, Patti Labelle, Michael Bolton, and more.

Ms. Gilmer shared that significant moment of the year was the Symphony's October tour culminating in a performance at Carnegie Hall, the first in a decade. The program included works by Carlos Simon's *Wake Up*, Dvořák's *Cello Concerto in B minor* with Alisa Weilerstein, and Shostakovich's *Symphony No. 5*. Ms. Gilmer described the experience as profoundly emotional, both for the New York audience and the San Diego supporters who traveled to celebrate the occasion, which also honored Irwin Jacobs' 90th birthday.

Ms. Gilmer shared that the Symphony also served as the centerpiece of CECUT's Día de los Muertos Festival in Tijuana, where overflow crowds gathered to watch the performance projected into the plaza. In November, the organization joined the Los Angeles Philharmonic and San Francisco Symphony to launch the California Festival, a statewide celebration of new music. San Diego's contribution included four events with works by living composers, two world premieres, and a free Family and Community Day.

Ms. Gilmer also shared that throughout the fall and winter, the Symphony returned indoors to multiple venues, including The Conrad Prebys Performing Arts Center, UC San Diego's Mandeville Auditorium, Civic Theatre, California Center for the Arts, and Patrick Henry High School. Ms. Gilmer praised both musicians and staff for their adaptability during this transitional

period. The season featured renowned guest artists such as Lang Lang at The Rady Shell and Yo-Yo Ma at Civic Theatre, a performance poignantly coinciding with the passing of Joan Jacobs, a beloved supporter of the Symphony. The season concluded with innovative productions such as Wagner's Walküre Act I, performed in partnership with San Diego Opera, and Stravinsky's Firebird with dynamic projections at The Rady Shell.

Ms. Gilmer reviewed the Symphony's Innovation & Impact Report, which detailed expanded community and educational programming across the San Diego region. A new elementary school curriculum reached over 6,000 students across 78 schools, more than half of which were Title I schools. Thousands of students and teachers attended open rehearsals, music majors at San Diego State University participated in masterclasses with guest artists, and 14 free Music Connects concerts were offered in under-resourced communities. Additionally, 4,500 free tickets were distributed through non-profit and military partners.

Ms. Gilmer then introduced Associate Concertmaster Wes Precourt and Oboist Andrea Overturf who then joined the meeting to share personal reflections on the past year. Mr. Precourt spoke about the emotional impact of performing at Carnegie Hall and the significance of the Symphony's cultural exchange concerts in Tijuana. Ms. Overturf reflected on her opportunity to perform a concerto for English Horn, describing the extensive preparation required and the pride she felt in presenting the work with her colleagues. Both musicians praised the orchestra's flexibility in navigating venue changes, program modifications, and last-minute challenges, expressing gratitude for the support of the Board and community.

Ms. Gilmer reported on the new musicians who recently joined the San Diego Symphony Orchestra, Second Horn, John Degan, Violinist Tiffany Wee, Viola Megan Wei, and Violinist Han Xie, as well as recent musician retirements of Marcia Bookstein, Cellist, Douglas Hall, Horn, and Mary Szanto, Cellist.

Ms. Gilmer concluded her report by celebrating the reopening of the Jacobs Music Center, describing the excitement of recent months with tuning rehearsals, a Hard Hat concert for the design teams and the construction workers who worked on the renovation project along with their families, as well as the Jacobs Music Center opening weekend. Ms. Gilmer shared a short video of the opening weekend events and festivities.

Mr. Snyder then introduced David Bialis, Treasurer and Chair of the Finance Committee. Mr. Bialis gave a preliminary report of the Association's fiscal year 2024 financial results, noting that the financial results were still subject to completion of the audit. Mr. Bialis concluded his report by giving thanks to the Finance Committee and to the staff for their hard work.

Mr. Snyder noted the tremendous progress of the administrative team on this fine result. Mr. Snyder reported that due to term limits on Board service as set out by the Association's Bylaw, that some Board members were stepping down from the Board at the conclusion of today's meeting, including Julia Brown, Don Slate, and Lisette Farrell. Mr. Snyder recognized their long and distinguished service as Board members and thanked them for their good work. Mr. Snyder thanked all participants in the meeting today, especially the Members of the Association for their active participation, attendance at concerts and financial support of the San Diego Symphony.

V. Adjournment

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda Platt, Secretary

(Recorded by Maritza Aragon, Executive Assistant to the President and CEO)