

## American Youth Symphony Offers Three New Paid Musician Fellowships

*Thanks to a one million dollar gift from Peter Mandell and Sarah Coade Mandell, AYS is expanding educational opportunities by offering three new orchestra Fellowships*

In the 2017/18 Season, the American Youth Symphony will introduce three special paid Fellowships open to current orchestra members. Each Fellow will receive an additional stipend, thanks to the generous support of AYS Board member Peter Mandell, and his wife, AYS Advisory Council member Sarah Coade Mandell.

A “Musician Citizen” Fellowship will focus on developing leadership in the use of classical music to better our community, inspired by the program founded by Yo-Yo Ma at the Civic Orchestra of Chicago in 2013. The selected candidate will research and analyze pertinent community issues in Los Angeles, as well as best practices in musician citizenship around the world. AYS is partnering with Civic in this endeavor, and the selected Fellow will be flown to Chicago in January to participate in Civic’s Citizen Musician Fellowship program. The Fellowship will culminate in project management of an AYS chamber concert designed to promote awareness and understanding of one local issue, to be presented in May 2018.

The second Fellowship will offer hands-on experience with orchestra management, a field that offers great career opportunities, but for which apprenticeships and on-the-job training are very rare. The chosen candidate will receive hands-on instruction in music preparation, orchestra library maintenance, rehearsal and concert production, and general orchestra administration. This Fellowship includes attendance at the annual Association of California Symphony Orchestras (ACSO) conference, ACSO's Youth Orchestra Confab, and meetings with orchestra managers at local professional orchestras throughout the season.

Finally, the Concertmaster Fellowship provides additional mentoring and artistic leadership opportunities to the orchestra’s first chair violin. In the 2017/18 Season, Concertmaster Gallia Kastner will be guided by former NY Phil Concertmaster Glenn Dicterow, who will support and lead her professional development during this crucially important time in her burgeoning career. Gallia will also be selecting the repertoire for the orchestra’s annual chamber concert at LACMA in October 2017, and will serve as the leader of the Musicians Committee.

The American Youth Symphony’s mission is to inspire the future of classical music. AYS shares exceptional, innovative concerts for free or significantly reduced admission that are based on our landmark Fellowship program for musicians in high school through doctoral music programs. Competitively selected, the orchestra is comprised of 100 musicians who represent extraordinary talent from all over the world. By gifting the community with remarkable concerts at world-class venues, AYS remain committed to creating access and opportunity for everyone to experience the inspiration of this beautiful art form.

For press inquiries, contact: Alice Dutton – [alice.dutton@aysymphony.org](mailto:alice.dutton@aysymphony.org) - 310-470-2332