

For Immediate Release

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THE VOLUNTEER COUNCIL OF THE LEAGUE OF AMERICAN ORCHESTRAS ANNOUNCES AWARD WINNERS:

Arkansas Symphony Orchestra Guild Wins Gold Award of Excellence

Little Rock, Arkansas – January 14, 2022 – The Arkansas Symphony Orchestra Guild is one of six volunteer organizations chosen by The Volunteer Council of the League of American Orchestras to receive the coveted Gold Award of Excellence for its Symphony of Flavors. The ASO Guild’s project was a video series of four cooking demonstrations by local celebrity chefs Capi Peck of Trio’s Restaurant, Eric Isaac of Restaurante Capeo, Henrik Thostrup of Colonial Wines & Spirits, and Ricardo Rincon of Kemuri.

The Volunteer Council’s annual award program recognizes outstanding projects done by volunteer associations from around the country that help ensure the success of their orchestras. The Gold Award of Excellence recognizes best-in-class projects that have had a significant impact. Winning projects were selected by Council members based upon originality, volunteer involvement, adaptability by other volunteer organizations, and the overall success of the project in meeting its stated goals.

Tandy Cobb, current Guild President, stated “The ASO Guild is dedicated to the support of the Arkansas Symphony Orchestra. Thanks to the creativity and hard work of Guild members, the generosity of the chefs, and the enthusiastic support of the community, the success of the Symphony of Flavors virtual fundraiser enabled the Guild to continue our financial support of the ASO during the COVID pandemic.”

The ASO Guild will present its project as part of the Volunteer Track of the League’s 2022 National Conference in Los Angeles in June. The project will also be featured in an upcoming special issue of *Volunteer Notes*, on Facebook and on the League’s website.

“The League’s Volunteer Council knows firsthand the rewards and challenges of planning and executing volunteer projects. Our goal is to inspire and educate volunteers by acknowledging and sharing innovative volunteer-driven projects from across the country in categories including Audience Development/Community Engagement, Communication/Technology, Education, Leadership/Organizational Structure, Membership, Fundraising, Flexibility/Adaptability, and Service Projects,” said Julie Meredith, president of the Volunteer Council and a member of the Utah Symphony Guild.

About the Volunteer Council of the League of American Orchestras

The Volunteer Council is a national leadership group of recognized volunteer leaders who have demonstrated outstanding support for their symphony orchestras. Our Council members represent nineteen volunteer associations affiliated with orchestras from coast to coast and across the entire spectrum of budget tiers.

About the League of American Orchestras

The League of American Orchestras leads, supports, and champions America's orchestras and the vitality of the music they perform. Its diverse membership of more than 1,800 organizations and individuals across North America runs the gamut from world-renowned orchestras to community groups, from summer festivals to student and youth ensembles, from conservatories to libraries, from businesses serving orchestras to individuals who love symphonic music. The only national organization dedicated solely to the orchestral experience, the League is a nexus of knowledge and innovation, advocacy, and leadership advancement. Its conferences and events, award-winning Symphony magazine, website, and other publications inform people around the world about orchestral activity and developments. Founded in 1942 and chartered by Congress in 1962, the League links a national network of thousands of instrumentalists, conductors, managers and administrators, board members, volunteers, and business partners. Visit americanorchestras.org.