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South Bend Symphony Orchestra Announces Five Music Director Candidates, the Details of the Search Process and an Exciting 2016-2017 Season

SOUTH BEND, IND. (February 4, 2016) — Today, The South Bend Symphony Orchestra unveiled five Music Director Candidates who will each lead a Masterworks concert during the 2016-2017 Season. The search process for a new music director began last fall following the announcement of Maestro Tsung Yeh's retirement and is expected to span well over a year.

"This is an exciting time for South Bend and the Symphony," said Ryan Matthys, SBSO's Board President. "We've enjoyed 28 amazing years under Maestro Tsung Yeh's artistic leadership. He has created exceptional and inspiring music for our communities for nearly three decades and set the bar high for our next music director."

The 17-member Search Committee received 169 applications from conductors worldwide from more than a dozen countries, including Germany, Poland, Japan, Italy and the United Kingdom.

"We've been able to draw interest and a remarkable breadth of talent from across the globe because of Maestro Tsung Yeh's legacy," said South Bend Symphony Orchestra's new Executive Director Agnieszka Rakhmatullaev. "As *the* premiere professional orchestra in the region, we are looking for a music director who will continue to enhance SBSO's tradition of artistic excellence, inspire and engage audiences, bring innovative programming to and become involved in our community."

The five South Bend Symphony Orchestra Music Director Candidates are:

Candidate	Birthplace	Masterworks Concert	Concert Date	Current Affiliation, Link to Bio
Alastair Willis	Acton, Massachusetts	Masterworks I	Oct. 8, 2016	Illinois Symphony Orchestra, Read more.
Stilian Kirov	Sofia, Bulgaria	Masterworks II	Dec. 3, 2016	Bakersfield Symphony Orchestra and Symphony in C, Read more.
José-Luis Novo	Valladolid, Spain	Masterworks III	Jan. 28, 2017	Annapolis Symphony Orchestra and Binghamton Philharmonic, Read more.
Vladimir Kulenovic	Belgrade, Serbia	Masterworks IV	March 11, 2017	Lake Forest Symphony, Read more.
Keitaro Harada	Tokyo, Japan	Masterworks V	April 15, 2017	Cincinnati Symphony Orchestra, Read more.

Throughout the 2016-17 Season, each Candidate will lead a Masterworks concert. The SBSO is excited to announce the addition of a fifth Masterworks concert, allowing the Symphony to invite one more Candidate during the 2016-17 Season. This additional concert will be free to patrons who subscribe to the Masterworks Series by April 1, 2016.

“This is an unprecedented opportunity for the community to see remarkable conductors from around the world lead our Symphony,” said Joyce Stifel, the Co-Chair of the Music Director Search Committee. “What better way to get to know each of these remarkable conductors, their artistic skills and personalities, than to see them in action; and South Bend will, no doubt, impress the Candidates!”

2016-2017 Season Announced

Maestro Yeh shared insights about his selections for the upcoming season. “The programs and guest soloists we’ve selected for this season, and certainly the Music Director Candidates you’ll meet, are exceptional. They will inspire you and will *not* disappoint!”

Please note that all programs, dates and artists are subject to change.

Highlights of the Masterworks Series include:

- **Oct. 8, 2016** - Illinois Symphony Orchestra Music Director Alastair Willis will conduct Dvořák’s love letter to America, the “New World” Symphony and Mendelssohn’s Violin Concerto featuring Chicago Symphony Orchestra’s Concertmaster Robert Chen.
- **Dec. 3, 2016** - Bakersfield Symphony Orchestra and Symphony in C Music Director Stilian Kirov will lead a program featuring Brahms’ Symphony No. 2 and the legendary pianist Alexander Toradze as soloist.
- **Jan. 28, 2017** - Rimsky-Korsakov’s shimmering *Scheherazade* will be led by Annapolis Symphony Orchestra and Binghamton Philharmonic Music Director José-Luis Novo. Also on the program, American composer Richard Danielpour’s newly composed Percussion Concerto “The Wounded Healer” performed by Lisa Pegher.
- **March 11, 2017** - Vladimir Kulenovic — winner of the 2015 Sir George Solti Conducting Award and Music Director of the Lake Forest Symphony — takes the podium for Tchaikovsky’s emotional “Pathétique” Symphony and Beethoven’s Triple Concerto featuring SBSO soloists.
- **April 15, 2017** - Beethoven’s immortal Fifth Symphony will soar under the baton of Cincinnati Symphony Orchestra Associate Conductor Keitaro Harada. This program also includes cellist Jay Campbell performing Elgar’s emotion-filled Cello Concerto.

KeyBank POPS Series:

- **Nov. 5, 2016** – Music of John Williams
- **Feb. 11, 2017** – Rodgers & Hammerstein Celebration
- **May 6, 2017** – Music of Led Zeppelin

June H. Edwards Chamber Series:

- **Oct. 23, 2016** – SBSO & South Bend Chamber Singers
- **Jan. 8, 2017** – Classical Masters
- **March 19, 2017** – SBSO & Sacred Music at Notre Dame

In whole, the South Bend Symphony Orchestra’s 75 musicians will present more than 19 concerts, including Masterworks, Pops, and Chamber Series, as well as two Holiday concerts and the annual MLK Day Celebration Concert to round out the season.

The orchestra will present performances at two state-of-the-art performance venues—the Morris Performing Arts Center and the DeBartolo Performing Arts Center at the University of Notre Dame—in addition to a free summer concert at Potawatomi Park and more than 50 ensemble concerts in schools, retirement homes and community centers, along with four Young People’s Discovery Concerts that attracted more than 4,500 area students this year.

The SBSO boasts strong and growing ticket sales, closed the year in a strong financial position, finalized a three-year contract with musicians and hired Executive Director Agnieszka Rakhmatullaev.

“This is going to be a phenomenal Season,” said Rakhmatullaev. “You can expect a full year of exciting and moving performances during the SBSO’s Season of Discovery!”

Discounts, priority seating and other exclusive benefits are available to early season subscribers. 2016-17 Season Subscription details and information on the remaining concerts of this season are available at www.southbendsymphony.org or (574) 232-6343.

Individual tickets for Masterworks and KeyBank POPS Series concerts are available at The Morris Box Office, open Monday – Friday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., by phone at (574) 235-9190 or online at morriscenter.org. Tickets also can be purchased at Hammes Bookstore/Eddy Street Commons, O’Brien Recreation Center and TG Music in Goshen.

Tickets to the June H. Edwards Chamber Series concerts are available at the DeBartolo Performing Arts Center Ticket Office, open Monday – Friday, 12 p.m. to 6 p.m, by phone (574) 631-2800 or online at www.performingarts.nd.edu.

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For photos, interviews and information about the Music Director Candidates, please contact their artist managers directly (with the exception of Mr. Novo):

- Stilian Kirov and Vladimir Kulenovic - [M. Patricia Handy](mailto:M.Patricia.Handy@schmidtartists.com), [Schmidt Artists International](http://www.schmidtartists.com), [212-421-8500](tel:2124218500)
- Alastair Willis - [William Reinert](mailto:William.Reinert@williamreinert.com), [William Reinert Associates](http://www.williamreinert.com), [646-236-9702](tel:6462369702)
- Keitaro Harada - [Janet Jarriel](mailto:Janet.Jarriel@jejartists.com), [JEJ Artists](http://www.jejartists.com), [404-663-4135](tel:4046634135)
- José-Luis Novo – [José-Luis Novo](mailto:Jose-Luis.Novo@novomusic.com), [513-256-5730](tel:5132565730)