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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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**Kate Kammeyer of the Berkeley Symphony One of Six Women and
Non-Binary Orchestra Professionals Selected to Participate in League
of American Orchestras' Anne Parsons Leadership Program**

Over 80 Professionals Applied to the New Mentoring Program

BERKELEY, CA (May 25, 2023) — **Kate Kammeyer, Executive Director of the Berkeley Symphony** is one of only six women and non-binary orchestra professionals from across the country to join the first cohort of the League of American Orchestras' [Anne Parsons Leadership Program](#), the League has announced. The program serves as a catalyst for Kate to lead Berkeley Symphony in redefining what it means to be an orchestra, as she works alongside a cohort of colleagues from across the country.

Honoring Anne Parsons, the transformative orchestra field leader and mentor who passed away in 2022, the newly-launched mentoring program aims to effect structural change by supporting women and non-binary orchestra professionals in their career progressions, and ultimately improving gender equity among top orchestra executives (CEOs, executive directors, and other leadership positions).

"Developing the next generation of change leaders is an incredibly important focus of the League's ongoing work," said **Simon Wood, League of American Orchestras President and CEO**. "The mentoring and guidance these six talented professionals will receive, and the personal networks they will build as a result of this program, will be critical to their future success. I'm so grateful to the four founding mentors for continuing Anne Parsons' work. She would have been proud to know her legacy continues."

"We are thrilled for Kate and very proud that she is being recognized for her work as a leader who fosters welcoming cultures of inclusion and collaboration. Programs like this are

instrumental in creating meaningful and lasting change in the orchestra field," says **Paul Bennett, President of the Berkeley Symphony Board of Directors**. "Kate has already demonstrated exceptional leadership in her first year at Berkeley Symphony, and we are excited to champion her efforts as she continues to grow as an exemplary leader within Berkeley and the Bay Area."

"The Anne Parsons Leadership Program offers a way to redefine what it means to be an orchestra," says Kate Kammeyer, Executive Director of Berkeley Symphony. "We are entering a new environment as we come out of the pandemic, so we must adapt to meet the changing needs of individuals and communities. I'm excited for the opportunity to break the mold and experiment through collaborations, special experiences, and programming that challenges the traditional frame of 'classical music.'"

Kate hopes to push orchestras to use their influence, size and resources to share all that music can offer, both on and offstage. Beyond providing entertainment, she looks to evoke change in how orchestras contribute to their communities. From music education to collaborations with artistic and community partners, she is eager to see orchestras activate all areas of the city to provide support through the power of music.

As Executive Director, Kate helps to shepherd Berkeley Symphony's mission, vision, and values, with its long-standing commitment to the championing of diverse voices, adventurous and accessible programming, music education programs serving Berkeley Unified School District, and engagement of the unique Berkeley community.

Kate is an industry leader with nearly two decades of experience in operations, personnel, artistic planning, education, and community engagement, in a series of positions with top-level orchestras, educational institutions, and music festivals. Before joining Berkeley Symphony, she served at the Rochester Philharmonic Orchestra as Senior Vice President and General Manager, as well as Interim Artistic Administrator. Prior to that, Kate worked as the Orchestra Manager of the Philadelphia Orchestra, Assistant Dean of Artistic Planning at the Longy School of Music, and General Manager and Artistic Administrator with Los Angeles Chamber Orchestra. Kate earned a Bachelor of Music, Master of Music, and Artist Diploma all in oboe performance while working in summer administrative positions with the Aspen Music Festival and School, National Repertory Orchestra, and Interlochen Center of the Arts. Most recently she was part of the 2017 cohort of the Emerging Leaders Program with the League of American Orchestras and completed a Change Management certificate in 2020 through Cornell University.

The initial cohort will be comprised of:

- **Catherine Beeson**, Assistant Principal Viola, Colorado Symphony
- **Kathryn Ginsburg**, General Manager, Detroit Symphony Orchestra

- **Emma Kail**, Executive Director, Grand Teton Music Festival
- **Kate Kammeyer**, Executive Director, Berkeley Symphony
- **Felecia Tchen Kanney**, Vice President of Communications, Cincinnati Symphony Orchestra
- **Pamela Calero Wardell**, Executive Director, Ocala Symphony Orchestra

The new orchestra leadership program was originally conceived by the League in coordination with a group of four large-budget orchestra leaders who will serve as mentors:

- **Jennifer Barlament**, Executive Director, Atlanta Symphony Orchestra
- **Marie-Hélène Bernard**, President and CEO, St. Louis Symphony Orchestra
- **Kim Noltemy**, Ross Perot President & CEO, Dallas Symphony Orchestra
- **Melia Tourangeau**, President & CEO, Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra

Program Activities

The cohort will meet in person at the League's National Conference in Pittsburgh, June 14-16, 2023. Two virtual leadership training sessions are also planned for the summer: one on Gender Inclusivity and one on Executive Leadership. Quarterly Leadership Forums will take place virtually throughout the year featuring leaders from within and outside of the field (academic leaders, corporate executives, government representatives).

Each participant will have a pair of mentors and meet with them individually several times over the year. The cohort will also meet together virtually throughout the year to learn from each other, share resources, and build community.

About the Anne Parsons Leadership Program

The first year of the program will run from June 2023 to June 2024. Eligible candidates self-identified as a woman or non-binary individual and had a minimum of five years full-time employment by orchestras of any budget size; current employment was not required. Selection criteria for the free program included demonstrated experience; managerial vision; and commitment to leading and serving American orchestras.

Each participant has received funding to attend the League's National Conference in 2023, as well as a gratis, one-year membership to the League of American Orchestras.

About Anne Parsons

Anne Parsons (1957-2022) was a transformational mentor and leader, lost too soon after fighting a courageous battle with cancer. Parsons served as President and Chief Executive Officer of the Detroit Symphony Orchestra for seventeen years. Following her appointment at the DSO in 2004, she instilled a culture of resilience and financial stability and grew the audience and donor base, all while successfully navigating local and national economic downturns and a

global pandemic. Under her leadership, the DSO posted nine consecutive operating surpluses from 2013 to 2021. Parsons was also responsible for bringing two new music directors to Detroit—Leonard Slatkin in 2007 and Jader Bignamini in 2020—and returning the orchestra to national and international prominence through touring and webcasts.

Parsons' vision of transforming the DSO into the "most accessible orchestra on the planet" led to an increased focus on serving audiences through innovative new programs. At the same time, her emphasis on reaching Detroiters and DSO fans across the region offered unique ways to connect with the organization, including chamber music programs, senior engagement concerts, music therapy partnerships, in-school appearances, and full orchestra performances in metro Detroit neighborhoods.

Prior to joining the DSO, Parsons served in management positions for a variety of major arts organizations, including New York City Ballet, the Hollywood Bowl in Los Angeles, the Boston Symphony Orchestra, and the National Symphony Orchestra in Washington, D.C. She received a Bachelor of Arts degree from Smith College in Massachusetts. Post-graduation, Parsons was among the first class of League of American Orchestra Fellows (then called American Symphony Orchestra League Fellows).

Anne Parsons was named an Emeritus Director of the League of American Orchestras as well as President Emeritus of the Detroit Symphony Orchestra.

ABOUT BERKELEY SYMPHONY

Berkeley Symphony is unique among Bay Area and American orchestras for its commitment to innovation, community, and excellence. Founded in 1971 in the intellectual and artistic nexus of Berkeley, California, the Orchestra is committed to performing, premiering, and commissioning new music that reflects the culturally diverse people and the heady creative climate of its home city.

In the 2019-2020 season, Berkeley Symphony entered a new era under the leadership of Joseph Young, the Orchestra's fourth Music Director in its 50-year history, following a highly successful February 2019 debut that was acclaimed by critics and audiences alike. In addition to building on the Orchestra's artistic innovation, creativity and adventurous programming, Maestro Young is committed to amplifying the voices of underrepresented composers and artists as well as continuing to tell diverse stories that reflect the local Berkeley community.

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 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.

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