

Press Release

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**GARY GINSTLING NAMED EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
OF THE NATIONAL SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA**

(WASHINGTON)—Jeanne Ruesch, Chair of the Board of Trustees of the National Symphony Orchestra (NSO), today announced the appointment of Gary Ginstling as Executive Director of the National Symphony Orchestra.

Gary Ginstling joins the NSO from the Indianapolis Symphony Orchestra (ISO), where he has served as its Chief Executive Officer since 2013.

As Executive Director of the NSO, Ginstling will be responsible for the leadership and strategic direction of the Orchestra, overseeing all aspects of the NSO, including artistic planning, operations, education initiatives, and community programs; financial management; audience development; and fundraising activities. He will work closely with the NSO's artistic leadership—Music Director Designate Gianandrea Noseda, Principal Pops Conductor Steven Reineke, and Artistic Advisor Ben Folds—and the NSO Board to foster an environment that enables conductors, orchestra musicians, and guest artists to do their best work; to guide and support the NSO musicians in their engagement and education activities throughout the community; and to help shape the breadth and depth of the Orchestra's programming and interdepartmental collaborations throughout the Kennedy Center.

"I am delighted to welcome Gary Ginstling, a creative and visionary leader, as Executive Director of the National Symphony," said Board Chair Jeanne Ruesch.

"Gary's experience as both an administrator and a musician is exceptional and creates

new opportunities for engagement at the community, national, and international levels. With the addition of Gary, and the arrival of our new Music Director, Gianandrea Noseda, we begin a new chapter in our history. The success of our search is a credit to Ronald Abramson, our Board President, who, with members of the search committee, worked with dedication and extraordinary effort during the recruitment process.”

“It’s with great joy that I welcome Gary to the NSO as I begin my first season as Music Director,” said Music Director Designate Gianandrea Noseda. “Gary and I share a common vision and many ideas for how to develop the huge potential of this orchestra. We will do so with the entire NSO family’s support and share it with our enthusiastic audience. Gary’s competence, along with the energy of the artists of the Orchestra and myself, will propel the NSO into an exciting future. The unique platform of the Kennedy Center serves as the perfect ‘stage’ where we will take our first steps there together.”

“On behalf of the musicians of the National Symphony Orchestra, I am thrilled to welcome Gary Ginstling,” said Jennifer Mondie, Chair of the Orchestra Committee. “We have a long history of working closely and productively with our management. Based on Mr. Ginstling’s extensive work in and intimate knowledge of our field, we look forward to building on that history together. This is an incredibly exciting time for the NSO and we can’t wait to begin our collaborations with both Mr. Ginstling and Maestro Noseda.”

“I am honored to be joining the NSO as it begins a new chapter in its history,” said Gary Ginstling. “With Gianandrea Noseda poised to begin as Music Director, a passionate Board led by Jeanne Ruesch, talented and committed musicians, and Deborah Rutter’s leadership of the Kennedy Center, I could not be more excited about the NSO’s future and I look forward to being a part of it.”

“Gary is so highly regarded in the orchestra field,” said Deborah F. Rutter, Kennedy Center President. “He has earned the respect of musicians, orchestra managers, and Board members from across this industry and I have had the good fortune to know him

for many years. We are so pleased to welcome him to the Kennedy Center family. I have no doubt that Gary—together with Maestro Nosedá, the NSO Board, staff, and musicians—will lead the NSO into a new era of excellence and engagement.”

Gary Ginstling joins the NSO from the Indianapolis Symphony Orchestra (ISO), where he has served as its Chief Executive Officer since 2013. Among the highlights of his major accomplishments there include significant increases in ticket sales and fundraising, with overall earned income rising 44% and contributed income rising 40% over three- and five-year periods, respectively. He led the institution to balanced budgets in three of the last four years, and secured one of the largest contributions (\$10 million) in the orchestra’s history. Ginstling oversaw the launch of a variety of new initiatives and performance opportunities in the ISO’s portfolio, including a wider variety of concert formats such as a casual lunchtime series and INFusion—a weekend contemporary music festival that explores connections between music and the environment, as well as a new neighborhood concert series that brings the orchestra to underserved communities in the Indianapolis area.

Prior to joining the Indianapolis Symphony as Chief Executive Officer in 2013, Ginstling was the General Manager of The Cleveland Orchestra from 2008–2013; served as Director of Communication and External Affairs at the San Francisco Symphony from 2006–2008; and was Executive Director of the Berkeley Symphony Orchestra from 2003–2006. His work experience extends beyond the orchestral field, as well, with several years spent as a marketing manager at Sun Microsystems. An accomplished clarinetist, Ginstling has performed as an extra/substitute musician with the San Francisco Symphony, Los Angeles Philharmonic, and New World Symphony. He holds a bachelor’s degree from Yale University, a master’s degree from The Juilliard School, and an MBA from the Anderson School at UCLA.

Ginstling’s predecessor, Rita Shapiro, stepped down in December 2016 after 15 years in the post. The Washington, D.C.–based Catherine French Group led the six-month executive search and worked closely with a committee comprising NSO Trustees, NSO

musicians, and staff to make this appointment. Ginstling, along with his wife and two children, will relocate to the D.C. area in the coming months.

David and Alice Rubenstein are the Presenting Underwriters of the NSO.

The NSO Music Director Chair is generously endowed by Victoria and Roger Sant.

ABOUT THE NATIONAL SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

The 2016–2017 season marks the NSO’s 86th, and its seventh and final led by Music Director Christoph Eschenbach, also the Music Director of the Kennedy Center. Founded in 1931, the Orchestra has, throughout its history, been committed to artistic excellence and music education. In 1986, the National Symphony became an artistic affiliate of the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, where it has performed a full season of subscription concerts since the Center opened in 1971. The National Symphony Orchestra regularly participates in events of national and international importance, including performances for state occasions, presidential inaugurations and official holiday celebrations. Its regularly televised holiday appearances for Capitol Concerts and local radio broadcasts on WETA make the NSO one of the most-heard orchestras in the country.

The Orchestra itself numbers 96 musicians who perform approximately 150 concerts each year. These include classical subscription series, pops concerts, summer performances at Wolf Trap and on the lawn of the U.S. Capitol, chamber music performances in the Terrace Theater and on the Millennium Stage, and an extensive educational program, with performances designed for ages three years and up, and audience engagement activities, as well. Additionally, the NSO’s community engagement projects are nationally recognized, including NSO In Your Neighborhood which comprises a week of approximately 50 performances in schools, churches, community centers, and other neighborhood venues) and NSO Sound Health, which has taken the NSO to the National Institutes of Health (NIH), Children’s Inn at NIH, Walter Reed National Military Medical Center, Children’s National Medical Center, and Inova Health System. Career development opportunities include the NSO Youth Fellowship Program and its Summer Music Institute.

For more information, visit nationalsymphony.org.

For more information about the Kennedy Center, visit kennedy-center.org.



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