



**Alabama
Symphony
Orchestra**

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Alabama Symphony Orchestra Announces Assistant Conductor



(Birmingham, AL – May 11, 2018) – The Alabama Symphony Orchestra is proud to name Kevin Fitzgerald the Music Director of the Alabama Symphony Youth Orchestra (ASYO) and Assistant Conductor of the ASO, in the summer of 2018.

After finding success as Music Director of Spectrum Orchestra and ÆPEX Contemporary Performance, Kevin Fitzgerald joins the ASO as Assistant Conductor. Kevin's career has been marked by a fierce commitment to music as a vehicle for social change. He has conducted the Ridgefield Symphony Orchestra, Royal Oak Symphony Orchestra, Chamber Music Michigan, and has performed at the Eastern Music Festival. Kevin's duties will include conducting all rehearsals and concerts for the Alabama Symphony Youth Orchestra, acting as the ASO's Cover Conductor, and leading rehearsals and education concerts.

Music Director Carlos Izcaray says, "Kevin is a very talented and committed young conductor, whose passion and energy stood out in a very competitive audition process. I'm confident that he will be a great asset to the Alabama Symphony Orchestra as Assistant Conductor, and a powerful source of inspiration and leadership as Music Director of the Alabama Symphony Youth Orchestra."

Deanna Sirkot, Director of Education for the ASO, says, "Right away, Kevin displayed a combination of musical energy and personality that resonated with the ASYO students. He instantly set up an environment that encouraged musical achievement and teamwork; the kind of environment that creates rich learning experiences."

And Fitzgerald says "I am eager to contribute to the organization's tremendous artistic achievements and to become a member of the Birmingham community. I look forward to building relationships with the Alabama Symphony Orchestra family!"

About the Alabama Symphony Orchestra

Since its founding in 1921, the Alabama Symphony Orchestra has grown to become the state's premier performing arts organization and only full-time professional orchestra. The ASO inspires, entertains, and provides vital programming to the residents of the state, serving nearly 100,000 people yearly throughout Alabama through concert series, youth

programs, and educational and community engagement efforts to fulfill our mission of changing lives through music. The ASO works to produce creative, dynamic programming and to be recognized as an artistically innovative leader in the field.

About Kevin Fitzgerald

In addition to his post with the ASO, Kevin holds the position of Music Director of Spectrum Orchestra and ÆPEX Contemporary Performance, both based in Michigan. A fierce advocate for contemporary music, Kevin founded ÆPEX Contemporary Performance in 2015 to promote the music of underrepresented and underperformed composers to audiences in Michigan.

In 2015, Kevin made his European debut with the Lucerne Festival Academy Orchestra in the culminating performance of their annual masterclass with Matthias Pintscher. Kevin has also appeared as a conductor at the Eastern Music Festival as a conducting fellow and participated in a masterclass with Marin Alsop at the Cabrillo Festival of Contemporary Music.

Kevin believes that music is a vehicle for social change. In 2016, Kevin conducted an impromptu performance of Mozart's Requiem Mass in d minor, K.626 dedicated to the victims of the Pulse Nightclub shooting in Orlando, FL. Planned in under 48 hours, the event that became known as "Requiem for Orlando" attracted over 400 performing musicians and a full capacity audience in Ann Arbor's Hill Auditorium: over 2,500 people. Kevin has conducted numerous other concerts benefitting humanitarian causes such as the International Rescue Committee, the refugee aid organization Freedom House Detroit, Physicians for the Prevention of Gun Violence and the Houston Area Women's Shelter.

Kevin has guest conducted the Ridgefield Symphony Orchestra, the Royal Oak Symphony Orchestra and Chamber Music Michigan. Kevin earned his BM in trumpet performance and music theory from the Eastman School of Music and his MM in orchestral conducting from the University of Michigan. His conducting teachers are Dr. Mark Scatterday, Brad Lubman and Kenneth Kiesler.

This summer, Kevin will participate in the Tanglewood Music Center Conducting Seminar and recently conducted in a masterclass with Michael Tilson Thomas and the New World Symphony.