



Summer 2009

Dear Candidate,

Thank you for your interest in the California Symphony **Young American Composer-in-Residence (YACR) Program**. This program is designed to give outstanding young American composers an opportunity to work in a laboratory setting with a professional orchestra for a residency of three years. It is distinctive from other programs of its type. The composer is provided with a number of readings and recordings of his/her work during the composition process. Orchestra members, as well as Music Director Barry Jekowsky, provide important feedback to the composer about the work in progress. Composer and orchestra become partners in the creation of the work.

The California Symphony is very proud of its past six young composers who participated in this unique program. **Kamran Ince**, the first recipient of the Young American Composer-in-Residence Award (1991-93), has received the Rome Prize, and his music has been performed and commissioned by leading orchestras both in the United States and abroad. **Chris Theofanidis**, 1994-96 YACR, has received many honors including the Masterprize, the Rome Prize, as well as commissions from ASCAP and the Atlanta, Monte Carlo, National and Oregon Symphonies and the Los Angeles Chamber Orchestra. Mr. Theofanidis has recently been commissioned to write an opera for the San Francisco Opera and a second opera for the Houston Grand Opera. **Kevin Puts**, 1996-99 YACR, honors include the 2003 Benjamin H. Danks Award for Excellence in Orchestral Composition of the American Academy of Arts and Letters, a 2001 John Simon Guggenheim Memorial Foundation Fellowship, a 2001-2002 Rome Prize from the American Academy in Rome, and the 1999 Barlow International Competition. **Pierre Jalbert**, 1999-2002 YACR, was the 2001 Winner of the International Masterprize in Composition with his first piece, *In Aeternam*, commissioned in 2000 by the California Symphony as part of the YACR program. Pierre was also awarded the Rome Prize in 2000-2001. **Kevin Beavers**, 2002-2005 YACR, has had works performed by several major U.S. orchestras and has received a number of grants and awards, including first prize in the Philadelphia Orchestra's Centennial Composition Competition. **Mason Bates**, our current YACR was recently hailed at "Artist of the Month" by *Musical America*. His works have already reached international acclaim and has received many honors including the Rome Prize and American Academy in Berlin Prize.

****The application postmarked deadline is January 15, 2010 with a selection scheduled on or before June 15, 2010.** This is a very competitive process – the Symphony received over 150 applications for the last residency. The selection committee includes YACR alumni and three of the most honored composers of our generation: *John Adams, John Corigliano and Christopher Rouse*. All candidates should be American citizens under the age of 40.

Detailed information and application information can be found on our website at www.californiasymphony.org. If you have questions about the California Symphony YACR Program, I can be reached at (925) 280-2490, fax (925) 280-2494, or elaina@californiasymphony.org

Thank you for your assistance and support.

Sincerely,

Elaina Birnbaum
Director of Operations and Education



YOUNG AMERICAN COMPOSER-IN-RESIDENCE PROGRAM

The Young American Composer-in-Residence (YACR) Program is a feature totally unique to the California Symphony. It has garnered international attention for its one-of-a-kind "orchestra-as-laboratory" residency approach, and helped to catapult all previous participants to international success.

The highly sought-after program is supported by the [National Endowment for the Arts](#), the Aaron Copland Fund, the [BMI Foundation](#), and others.

Launched in 1991, the program offers emerging composers the coveted opportunity to develop, refine and premiere a new work during each year of an in-depth three-year residency. No other symphony orchestra gives its composers in residence an opportunity to hone their craft in this unique way.

The California Symphony facilitates the composition process by providing several recordings from the in-depth reading rehearsals of the commissioned work, along with feedback from the musicians and conductor. This process is a tremendous benefit, since composers rarely have the opportunity to hear their new works in progress, and far enough in advance to make meaningful revisions prior to a public premiere.



As a result of the Symphony's approach, young composers are able to refine their pieces and create fully realized scores many months before their works are introduced to the public and critical scrutiny.

"My involvement with the California Symphony was literally the defining opportunity in my career," said [Chris Theofanidis](#), the Symphony's second YACR (1994-96). Theofanidis won the 2003

International [Masterprize Competition](#). "This (the YACR Program) is a program with very long-range goals, and will cultivate a generation of composers."

[Mason Bates](#) is the sixth American composer to participate in the Symphony's YACR program (2007-2010); this is the second year of his residency. In addition to Bates, other young American composers that have held residencies include [Kevin Beavers](#), [Kamran Ince](#); [Kevin Puts](#); and [Pierre Jalbert](#), who during his residency won the coveted [Masterprize](#) in 2001 with *In Aeternam*, a piece of music commissioned and premiered by the California Symphony. Most of the YACR alumni have received the prestigious Rome Prize in Composition either during their residency or shortly thereafter.

To date, the Symphony has commissioned and premiered thirty original pieces of music.



**Applications are now being accepted for the
YOUNG AMERICAN COMPOSER-IN-RESIDENCE PROGRAM
2010-2013**

The Young American Composer-In-Residence (YACR) program is designed to give outstanding, emerging, young American composers an opportunity to work with a professional orchestra and conductor for a three-year residency from August 1, 2010 through July 31, 2013.

The YACR program is distinctive from all other programs of its type. The composer is provided with a number of readings and recordings of his/her work during the composition process. The composer, conductor and orchestra become partners in the creation of the work, and share their experience as the composition develops.

To apply please send:

- **\$50.00 non-refundable application fee** (checks payable to California Symphony)
- A cover letter including date of birth
- Proof of U.S. citizenship (copy of birth certificate, passport or valid driver's license)
- Résumé including list of repertoire and three professional references (if mailed separately from application, please be sure name is printed on the envelope).
- At least three scores from within the last three years that represent a cross section of your work (orchestral, chamber and vocal scores are acceptable); compact discs of the compositions are recommended
- Award Recognition List (**please type**: include year, title of award received and title of composition)
- Composition List (**please type**: include year, title of composition, instrumentation, whom the piece was commissioned by and year/name of group that has performed each work.)
- All candidates should be American citizens under the age of 40*
 - *If you would like your materials returned upon review, please include an additional \$10 check with a self addressed return envelope. Materials will not be saved past 6/1/10.*

YACR Advisory Board: John Adams, John Corigliano & Christopher Rouse.

Send your application packet to:

Elaina Birnbaum, Director of Operations
California Symphony, YACR Program
877 Ygnacio Valley Road, Suite 200
Walnut Creek, CA 94596

The application deadline is January 15, 2010. All applications must be complete and postmarked by this date to be considered.

A selection will be made on or before June 15, 2010.

* Under special circumstances, the committee reserves the right to consider an applicant over the age limit.
**The California Symphony is an equal opportunity employer.



California Symphony's

YOUNG AMERICAN COMPOSER-IN-RESIDENCE PROGRAM

The young composer selected for this unique residency will receive:

- An honorarium/commission fee of \$2,000 for each work
- A copyist allowance up to \$2,500 for score and parts for each work
- Three world premieres in the Spring of 2011, 2012 and 2013
- Up to three rehearsal readings and recordings of each work before it premieres
- Accommodations and airfare during on-site reading rehearsals/ concerts (approximately three weeks each year of on-site residency) in Walnut Creek during the Symphony's rehearsal/concert schedule which includes airfare and accommodations
- Interaction with and input from Music Director, Barry Jekowsky and the orchestra musicians
- Interaction with the Symphony's board of directors and staff
- Publicity – reviews for each premiere

The Symphony would also ask the composer to participate in the following activities:

- On-site visits to local middle and high schools to inspire and enlighten young people about the art of composing
- *Soundbites* - where the composer and Music Director, Barry Jekowsky, talk to the audience about the composition during the concert.
- Special receptions and/or cultivation dinners with symphony board members
- An invitation to assist with the search for a young composer for the next residency

Please note that by returning a completed application for the YACR program, you are agreeing that you are able to accept the terms listed above and able to sign a contract by June 15, 2010.



At-A-Glance

23rd Season

2009-2010

Mission	A fully professional orchestra, the California Symphony provides first-class orchestral performances and in-depth music education programs for residents of Contra Costa County and the extended Bay Area.
Founded	In 1986 by the young American conductor Barry Jekowsky.
Music Director	Maestro Barry Jekowsky , prize-winner at the 1985 Stokowski Conducting Competition, the most important conducting competition in the United States. Associate Conductor of the National Symphony in Washington, DC 1994-1998. Music Director of the Reno Philharmonic 1998-2008.
Musicians	Nearly 100 of the Bay Area's most sought-after musicians, many of whom are also members of the San Francisco Symphony and the San Francisco Opera and Ballet orchestras, among others.
Programming	<u>Subscription Series</u> The current subscription season consists of 4 concert sets between September and May. Since its inception in 1986, the California Symphony has been committed to presenting exceptional orchestral performances; presenting a work by an American composer on every concert; featuring prodigious young talent, and presenting some of the most well-known virtuosic musicians in the industry.
Performance Schedule	<i>Subscription season:</i> The California Symphony performs on Sunday afternoons and Tuesday evenings at the Leshner Center for the Arts in downtown Walnut Creek. <i>Community Concert:</i> The California Symphony holds a free community concert in mid-September each year. The 2009 Pops on the Plaza concert takes place Saturday, September 12. This free family concert held at Todos Santos Plaza in Concord, CA increases access of all sectors of the community to professional symphonic music.
Recordings & Broadcasts	The orchestra's debut recording on the Argo/Decca label features works by California composer Lou Harrison , including Symphony No. 4 (<i>Last Symphony</i>) with Al Jarreau as the soloist. Excerpts from subscription concerts are broadcast, Bay Area-wide, on Classical 102.1 KDFC.
Venues	Hofmann Theatre, Leshner Center for the Arts in Walnut Creek .
Budget	Approximately \$1,500,000.
Young American Composer-in-Residence	A distinctive three-year residency that gives emerging American composers the opportunity to hone their craft and to premiere new works with a professional orchestra. The composer is selected by Maestro Jekowsky, with assistance from a distinguished national advisory committee including composers John Adams, John Corigliano and Christopher Rouse .

Education Outreach	<p><i>Music-in-the-Schools Program:</i> Ensembles from the orchestra visit schools seven times during the school year performing intimate concerts and interactive lecture-demonstrations that allow the children to experience and experiment with different instruments. In 2008-2009, the orchestra spent more than 50 days in the classroom teaching over 4,000 students at 10 elementary schools in Contra Costa County.</p> <p><i>Soundbites:</i> As part of our subscription concerts, Maestro Barry Jekowsky offers insights to the compositions being featured as well as some examples performed by the orchestra</p>
Audiences	<p>Totaled nearly 15,000 in 2008-2009, including subscription concert series, one community concert, two children’s concerts and symphony ensemble visits to schools and other venues.</p>
Honors	<p>California Symphony was named “America’s Best Symphony” by <i>Reader’s Digest</i> Magazine in May 2005. The Symphony’s debut recording, <i>Lou Harrison: A Portrait</i>, was named “CD of the Month” in the August 1998 issue of <i>Gramophone</i> magazine, the most prestigious publication of the classical music industry. The CSO was named 1993 “Orchestra of the Year” by music writer Paul Hertelendy in the <i>San Jose Mercury News</i>.</p>
Television Coverage	<p><i>ABC7 News:</i> News Anchor Dan Ashley saluted California Symphony for its Music-in-the-Schools Program with a feature segment on the 6 p.m. News on June 2, 2006. <i>CBS News “48 Hours”:</i> A segment on child prodigies featuring Sarah Chang’s performance with the California Symphony, broadcast in April 1991. <i>News segments:</i> Nationally on <i>Entertainment Tonight</i> (featuring guest conductor David Ogden Stiers) and locally on the major network affiliates.</p>
Special Events	<p>The annual California Symphony Ball, one of the most significant gala events in Contra Costa County, generates more than \$100,000 in support for the orchestra’s general operations. Other events include the annual “Hearts Desire Luncheon,” an afternoon of music and fun, and Virtuoso, serving the finest in food and wine in the Bay Area.</p>
Volunteers	<p>The California Symphony Alliance is a 50-member volunteer group that coordinates several programs and fundraising events for the Symphony, including Music-in-the-Schools, the Family Concert, and “Heart’s Desire.”</p>



“The California Symphony now ranks among the Bay Area’s most reliable musical organizations, treating its subscribers time and again to well-planned and brilliantly executed programs.” -- San Francisco Chronicle

Company Profile

Introduction

Recognizing the need for a locally-based professional orchestra to serve the growing size and sophistication of Contra Costa County, the young American conductor Barry Jekowsky and a committed volunteer Board founded the California Symphony (CSO) in 1986. The California Symphony, now approaching its 23rd season, is a professional orchestra of nearly 100 of the Bay Area’s most sought-after musicians, many of whom are also members of the San Francisco Symphony and the San Francisco Opera and Ballet orchestras, among others. Hailed by the *London Times* as “a man who can make things happen,” Barry Jekowsky has built an exciting ensemble now recognized as “America’s Best Symphony,” according the May, 2005 issue of *Reader’s Digest*.

The orchestra first performed in May 1987 for an enthusiastic audience at the Rheem Theatre in Moraga. During the next three seasons, the Symphony made its home at the Rheem while it steadily drew larger audiences and received critical notice. Since 1990, the California Symphony has been a resident orchestra of the Dean Leshner Regional Center for the Arts in Walnut Creek. Since then it has performed at the Sleep Train Pavilion in Concord, the San Mateo Performing Arts Center, and has annually performed a free concert in the park at Todos Santos Plaza in Concord since 2000. All totaled, during the most recently completed season (2003-2004), the California Symphony served an audience of more than 33,000 individuals and thousands more heard the orchestra as part of Classical 102.1 KDFC’s radio broadcasts.

This season the California Symphony will present a subscription series of four programs (eight concerts) on Sunday afternoons and Tuesday evenings. Each concert features a work by an American composer and a performance by a guest soloist.

In March 1997, the California Symphony made its recording debut on the Decca/Argo label. The CD, *Lou Harrison: A Portrait*, features the music of California composer Lou Harrison, with Grammy Award-winning vocalist Al Jarreau as the soloist in Harrison’s *Symphony No. 4 (Last Symphony)*. The recording, funded in part by a special challenge grant from the California Arts Council, received national and international rave reviews upon its release in November 1997. It has continued to garner critical acclaim and recognition, including being named “Recording of the Month” in the August 1998 issue of *Gramophone* magazine.

The mission of the California Symphony is to perform the full range of music from the orchestral repertoire, with particular emphasis on works by American composers; to promote and

encourage young artists as well as young American composers; and to provide music education programs for children and adults.

Television coverage of the California Symphony in past years has included news features on *48 Hours*, *Entertainment Tonight*, and United Artists Cable Television, as well as news segments on local ABC and CBS affiliates.

Programming

Subscription Series

Since its inception in 1986, the California Symphony has been committed to presenting a work by an American composer at each subscription concert.

Each year, the Symphony presents a pair of concerts featuring exceptional young talent. This season, 14-year-old violinist, **Chad Hoopes** will be performing Bruch's Violin Concert No. 1 and 14-year-old pianist and cellist, Sarina Zhang will perform BOTH Lizst's Piano Concerto No. 1 and Tchaikovsky's *Pezzo Capriccioso* for cello and orchestra. Mr. Hoopes and Ms. Zhang will add their names to an impressive list of prodigious young artists who have debuted with the California Symphony and gone on to international careers. These artists include violinists **Sarah Chang, Stephanie Chase, Leila Josefowicz, Karen Gomyo, and Kyoko Takezawa**; pianist **Helen Huang, Joyce Yang, Pang Pang and Conrad Tao**; cellists **Daniel Lee and Alisa Weilerstein**.

Besides virtuosic musicians, visual artists and other celebrities have also been featured during California Symphony subscription seasons. In May of 2009, California Symphony featured the World Premiere of 3-D film performed with live orchestra. The exciting 2009-2010 season includes performances by Motion Artist **Michael Moschen** and political satirist, **Will Durst**. Stellar guest artists who have performed with the orchestra in past seasons include **Sarah Chang, Alisa Weilerstein, Chee-Yun, Al Jarreau, Lara St. John, Kirill Gerstein, Mark O'Connor, Robert McDuffie, the L.A. Guitar Quartet, Carter Brey, John Browning, Jean-Philippe Collard, Norman Krieger, Awadagin Pratt, Hilary Hahn, Sharon Isbin, Jeffrey Kahane, Cho-Liang Lin, Garrick Ohlsson, Nathaniel Rosen, Orli Shaham** and the **Turtle Island String Quartet**.

Young American Composer-in-Residence Program

The Young American Composer-in-Residence (YACR) Program provides a three-year residency with the California Symphony to emerging American composers. The young composer creates and premieres a new work with the Symphony each season of his or her residency and receives up to three reading rehearsals and recordings of each work. The composer is thus afforded a rare opportunity to hear his or her piece being played by a professional orchestra while it is still a work in progress. The YACR advisory committee, whose members include distinguished American composers **John Adams, Christopher Rouse, and John Corigliano**, assists Maestro Jekowsky in the YACR selection process.

During the program's inaugural years (1992-94), the California Symphony's Composer-in-Residence was **Kamran Ince**, then an assistant professor of music at the University of Michigan at Ann Arbor. The music critics of every major Bay Area newspaper underscored the

importance of the YACR program by attending and reviewing the premiere performances of both of Ince's new works. Ince went on to win the prestigious Rome Prize in Musical Composition.

The compositions of **Chris Theofanidis**, the orchestra's second YACR (1994-96), entitled *This Dream, Strange and Moving* (March 1995) and *Metaphysica* (April 1996), also garnered critical acclaim. During his residency, Theofanidis received several prestigious awards, including a Guggenheim Fellowship and the Charles Ives Fellowship from the American Academy of Arts and Letters. He also received commissions from ASCAP, the Oregon Symphony, the National Symphony, the Tanglewood Festival, and the Monte Carlo Orchestra during his tenure. Theofanidis went on to win the prestigious Rome Prize in Musical Composition and the 2003 International Masterprize. Recently he has been commissioned to write an opera for the San Francisco Symphony and another opera for the Houston Grand Opera.

Kevin Puts was the Symphony's third YACR from 1996 to 1999. His first work for the CSO, *Network*, was hailed by the *Contra Costa Times* music critic as "a piece that invites repeated listenings." *Exalted Virelai*, his second world premiere, was performed on the final concerts of the 1997-98 season and was also widely praised by Bay Area critics. Puts' final commission, Symphony No. 1, was premiered on the CSO's third subscription concerts in February – March 1999. Called "a rich and memorable creation" by *San Francisco Chronicle* music reviewer Joshua Kosman, the work was honored by being considered for a Pulitzer Prize. He has won the Rome Prize in Musical Composition and recently his honors include the 2003 Benjamin H. Danks Award for Excellence in Orchestral Composition of the American Academy of Arts and Letters.

Pierre Jalbert, was the California Symphony's fourth YACR from 1999-2002. Jalbert is currently Assistant Professor of Composition and Music Theory at the Shepherd School of Music at Rice University in Houston, Texas and the Composer-in-Residence for the Los Angeles Chamber Orchestra. Jalbert's first work for the orchestra, *In Aeternam*, received its world premiere in May of 2000 to critical praise; it was with this composition he won the 2001 International Masterprize. Jalbert has also won the Rome Prize, a Guggenheim Fellowship, two BMI Foundation Composition Awards, and three ASCAP Foundation Awards, among many other honors.

Kevin Beavers, was the California Symphony's fifth YACR (2002-2005). Mr. Beavers has received a number of grants and awards, including first prize in the Philadelphia Orchestra's Centennial Composition Competition, the Rudolph Nissim Prize from ASCAP, a commission grant from the National Endowment for the Arts, the Charles Ives Scholarship from the Academy of Arts and Letters, the Lee Ettelson Prize, first prize in the Omaha Symphony's Composition Competition, four ASCAP Morton Gould Awards, two Regents Fellowships from the University of Michigan, and fellowships to attend the Tanglewood Music Festival and the MacDowell Colony.

Mason Bates, the current YACR (2007-2010), has emerged as a rising star among the next generation of American composers. His first commissioned piece for the California Symphony, *Music for Underground Spaces*, premiered in May 2008, and his second piece, *White Lies for Lomax*, premiered in March 2009. His final world premiere is scheduled for May, 2010. Mr.

Bates has received a number of grants and awards, including "Artist of the Month" by *Musical America* (June 2009). He is the recipient of both an American Academy in Berlin Fellowship and a Rome Prize from the American Academy in Rome. Recent commissions include the San Francisco Symphony, Chanticleer of San Francisco.

Education Outreach Programs

Because music has the power to enhance learning, the California Symphony has made education outreach part of its artistic mission. By introducing and exposing people of all ages to classical music at its finest, these unique programs help develop a widespread appreciation of music in the East Bay community. The California Symphony's flagship **Music-in-the-Schools Program**, served over 4000 Contra Costa County school children in 10 elementary schools in 2008-2009.

- June 2009

CALIFORNIA SYMPHONY KEY STAFF MEMBERS

Barry Jekowsky, Music Director

Barry Jekowsky is widely-regarded as one of America's most innovative conductors. At a time when orchestras are struggling to fill seats, both the California Symphony and the Reno Philharmonic –where he simultaneously served as Music Directors – enjoyed their highest season-attendance ever in 2007-08, the result of Jekowsky's flair for non-conventional programming.



Influenced by his close association with such legendary composers as Leonard Bernstein, Jacob Druckman, and Lou Harrison, Jekowsky was among the first to include at least one American composition on every program he conducts with the California Symphony – a tradition now in its 23rd year, for which he received the ASCAP Award for “Adventurous Programming of Contemporary Music” in 2002.

To help ensure that there will be a next generation of outstanding composers, Jekowsky founded the California Symphony's Young American Composer-in-Residence Program (YACR) in 1991 to nurture extraordinarily-gifted new voices. The first and only program of its kind anywhere in the world, YACR consists of three-year residencies in which participating composers are given unparalleled access to the orchestra as a laboratory to hone their craft. Notably, YACRs have gone on to win two of the three BBC International Masterprizes to date in the world's leading competition for composers. In recognition, Jekowsky received the BMI Foundation Award “for his visionary and passionate commitment to young American composers.” BMI Foundation President Ralph Jackson announced at the time: “We know of no other orchestra anywhere in the world doing this type of groundbreaking work with young composers.”

Long before it became a trend, Jekowsky began presenting gifted young musicians in their professional concert debuts in the United States. Among those who have gone on to international acclaim have been violinists Sarah Chang, Kyoko Takezawa, and Leila Josefowicz; pianists Helen Huang and Joyce Yang ; and cellist Alisa Weilerstein. More recently, Jekowsky presented pianist/composer Conrad Tao in his West Coast debut. Considered an authority on prodigiously gifted children, Jekowsky was featured prominently in the critically-acclaimed, bestselling 2004 book, *Genius Denied* by Jan and Bob Davidson, published by Simon and Schuster.

In 1997, Jekowsky led the California Symphony to critical acclaim with the recording of its first CD – *Lou Harrison: A Portrait*, featuring Al Jarreau (DECCA/ARGO) – which garnered rave national and international reviews and was named “CD of the Month” in *Gramophone* magazine. The *Los Angeles Times* called it “a 40-minute beauty, deeply moving, but also deeply joyful...” The *Atlantic Monthly* rated it “superb.” Among the

others, *Billboard* called it a “diverse, highly accessible album” and wrote: “Let’s hope there’s more.”

The year before he founded the California Symphony, Jekowsky won a prestigious Leopold Stokowski Conducting Prize and made his European conducting debut with the London Philharmonic. He has since appeared as guest conductor with many ensembles throughout North America and Europe, including the Tanglewood, Britt and Aspen Music Festivals, the London Philharmonic, the City of London Sinfonia, Manchester’s (UK) Halle Orchestra, and the Detroit, St. Louis, Louisville, Jacksonville, Oregon, Richmond (VA), Pacific, Maryland, Delaware, Akron, Kalamazoo and Oklahoma Symphonies.

For four years, beginning in 1993, he simultaneously served as Music Director of the California Symphony and Associate Conductor of the National Symphony in Washington, D.C., during which Jekowsky led NSO to critical acclaim during four national tours, concerts at the Kennedy Center, young people’s concerts, family concerts and summer programs at Wolf Trap.

Jekowsky was also featured with the orchestra on “CBS Sunday Morning” and “The News Hour with Jim Lehrer.” Beginning in 1998, Jekowsky spent a decade at the musical helm of the Reno Philharmonic -- where his flair for innovative programming dramatically increased ticket sales, allowing the orchestra to double its budget and performance schedule while ending each year with a cash surplus.

The former principal timpanist for the San Francisco Symphony for 17 years, Jekowsky earned both his undergraduate and master’s degrees from The Juilliard School, which he entered at the age of nine. At the age of 14, he made his Broadway debut, substituting as a professional percussionist in the Tony Award-winning musical, “Man of La Mancha.” By 16, he was a substitute percussionist with the New York Philharmonic. At the same time, he performed in the live orchestras of such hits as Stephen Sondheim’s Tony Award-winning “Company” and “Sweeney Todd,” and in recording sessions for film scores, albums, television shows and national commercials. When Jekowsky filled in at the last minute for Tony Bennett’s drummer at Bennett’s annual New Year’s Eve event, he was so taken with Jekowsky’s talent that the 16-year-old became the youngest member of his jazz trio.

Barry Jekowsky lives with his wife, Rosalind, and their three children in the San Francisco area.

January 2009

Stacey Street, Executive Director



Stacey Street joined the California Symphony as Executive Director in September 2001. She has more than 20 years of arts management experience.

Prior to joining the California Symphony, Ms. Street served as interim Executive Director of Philharmonia Baroque Orchestra subsequent to her position with them as Director of Development and Marketing (1997-2001). Her other arts management experience includes positions with the San Francisco Opera, Jewish Museum San Francisco and Boston's Handel & Haydn Society.

Ms. Street holds a Bachelor's Degree magna cum laude from Harvard in Anthropology. She was the 2008 Annual Conference Chairman and is currently Vice President for the Board of the Association of California Symphony Orchestras and a past member of the Board of the Golden Gate Chapter of the Association of Fundraising Professionals. As a singer, has performed with the San Francisco Symphony Chorus and Philharmonia Chorales. She has also studied voice privately since 1984. She resides in Oakland with her daughter Alyssa.

Elaina Birnbaum, Director of Operations and Education

Elaina Birnbaum has served as the Director of Operations and Education since February 2002. She is responsible for myriad details involving orchestra operations, website management and education outreach programs. She received her Bachelor of Arts Degree in Arts Administration from California State University, Chico. Ms. Birnbaum has also held positions with Philharmonia Baroque Orchestra and the Chico Symphony.