

Press Release 5/26/16

For immediate release, ATTN: Community, Education, and Arts Editors

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Note to Editors: additional high-resolution photos available from Jonathan Schroerlucke



Wisconsin Youth Symphony Orchestras

Hires New Opus One Conductor



WYSO is excited to announce the hiring of **Geri Hamilton** as the charter conductor of the its Opus One Orchestra. Ms. Hamilton brings a wealth of experience that fit with WYSO's mission and as she leads Opus One in its pilot year. Not only does Ms. Hamilton bring a unique perspective to WYSO, she is also an alumna of WYSO.

Ms. Hamilton has over a decade of teaching and conducting experience, including working in the Waunakee and Stoughton Public Schools. She is currently the 4th Grade Orchestra Instructor for the Oregon School District. She also brings years of experience as a private strings instructor and a violinist with Madison Symphony Orchestra since 2003.

"I am so pleased to welcome Geri Hamilton to the WYSO Artistic staff. Geri is a proud WYSO alumna and a highly skilled music educator. Her energetic personality and experience working with young musicians will bring the WYSO standard of excellence to our newest ensemble." Bridget Fraser, WYSO E.D.

In its pilot year, Opus One will meet 20 weeks from September to March, with one performance on Mar. 18, 2017. Regular Saturday rehearsal time will be 8:30-10:00am. This ensemble will focus on technique, incorporating instruction on fundamentals of scales, shifting, and bowing, in addition to formative ensemble skills experience. The opportunity will be valuable to all young musicians who are at the early stages of their studies of a string instrument. Once established and if demand warrants, the ensemble could become a full program with year-long rehearsals, sectionals, and concerts.

The Wisconsin Youth Symphony Orchestras was founded in 1966 by Dr. Marvin Rabin. Educational achievement lies at the heart of the WYSO program. Widely regarded as one of the finest youth orchestra programs in the nation, WYSO offers orchestral training and performance opportunities for youth ages 8-18. WYSO serves upwards of 480 young musicians from more than 80 Wisconsin communities each year. WYSO students become excellent musicians and develop a life-long appreciation for the arts.