



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

American Youth Philharmonic Orchestras Begins Transition to New Music Director

Monday, September 15, 2008
Annandale, VA

After 35 years with the National Symphony Orchestra, Luis Haza is excited to announce that he will retire from the NSO in August 2009 and begin the next phase of his life at his new residence in Georgia.

Mr. Haza also intends to retire as Music Director of AYPO but will remain with us until a new Music Director is appointed. He will continue to conduct all weekly AYP rehearsals, dress rehearsals, and concerts during the 2008-2009 concert season and remain actively involved in the June 2009 auditions. Mr. Haza's retirement has long been planned for and we anticipate that the passing of the baton to the new Music Director will be a smooth and seamless transition.

The entire AYPO community joins in wishing Maestro Haza great success and happiness in this new chapter of his life. Meanwhile, AYPO's Board of Directors is engaged in a search for a successor to Maestro Haza to uphold the standard of excellence and excitement the Maestro has infused into the entire community of musicians, parents, staff, and volunteers.

About the American Youth Philharmonic Orchestras

Recognized as one of the leading orchestral training programs in the nation, the American Youth Philharmonic Orchestras (AYPO) provides competitive world-class training and performance opportunities for young musicians ages 7 - 21. With nationally recognized conductors, a dedicated professional staff, and a host of volunteers, AYPO annually selects and trains over 400 of the most talented young musicians from throughout the Washington D.C. Metropolitan area. Currently in its 44th season, AYPO is the Youth Orchestra in Residence at George Mason University's Center for the Arts and was recently selected by the Catalogue for Philanthropy as "one of the best small nonprofits in the Greater Washington region."

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