



Contact: Michelle Wallace
Coordinator of Education & Outreach
E-mail: mwallace@aypo.org
Phone: (703) 642-8051, x.22

Annandale Community Park
4026 Hummer Road
Annandale, VA 22003
www.aypo.org

For Immediate Release

Music Director Finalist for American Youth Philharmonic Orchestras to Conduct on November 15, 2010 Guest Cellist Saeunn Thorsteinsdottir to Join AYP on Stage

Annandale, VA, November 2, 2009: One of the two final candidates for Music Director of the American Youth Philharmonic Orchestras (AYPO), Matthew Sidney Hazelwood, will be conducting the flagship orchestra, the American Youth Philharmonic (AYP), for *An Urban Portrait* on Sunday, November 15, 2009, 1:00pm at George Mason University Center for the Arts in Fairfax, Virginia. The concert will feature guest cellist Saeunn Thorsteinsdottir. Tickets are \$14 for adults, \$10 for seniors (62+), \$10 for students (includes college with ID) and free for ages 5 and under. Tickets will be available at the door.

For concert details or more information about Matthew Sidney Hazelwood and Saeunn Thorsteinsdottir visit www.aypo.org. The next AYPO concerts will be Friday, December 4, 2009 at the Ernst Cultural Center of Northern Virginia Community College in Annandale and Sunday, December 6, 2009 at the Rachel M. Schlesinger Concert Hall and Arts Center of Northern Virginia Community College in Alexandria. The concerts will feature the American Youth String Ensemble led by Cheri Collins, the American Youth Concert Orchestra led by J.D. Anderson, and the American Youth Symphonic Orchestra led by Carl J. Bianchi.

About the Music Director Search: AYPO began the extensive search for a new Music Director in September 2008. The process of searching for Music Director Emeritus Luis Haza's successor has been a thrilling and enlightening process, with more than 95 applicants from throughout the United States and beyond. AYPO's Search Committee worked hard to narrow down the selection pool of candidates to two people who were best qualified and suited to continue and build the musical excellence of the AYPO program. Finalist Matthew Sidney Hazelwood will conduct AYP on November 15th and Daniel Spalding will conduct AYP on January 31st. The official announcement of the New Music Director will be made at the April 11th concert conducted by Luis Haza. The New Music Director will conduct the final concert on June 6, 2010, 3:00pm at George Mason University Center for the Arts.

About AYPO: 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. AYPO is the *Youth Orchestra in Residence* at George Mason University's Center for the Arts and was selected by the Catalogue for Philanthropy as "one of the best small nonprofits in the Greater Washington region."

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