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For Immediate Release

American Youth Philharmonic Orchestras to Make Early Announcement of New Music Director at Gala on April 10, 2010

Annandale, VA, March 19, 2010: The American Youth Philharmonic Orchestras (AYPO) is currently in its 45th season and, after 25 years with Luis Haza as Music Director, will make an early announcement of the organization's New Music Director at the annual Gala, "A Rite of Spring", on Saturday, April 10, 2010, 7:00pm at Woo Lae Oak Korean restaurant of Tysons Corner, Virginia. The event will include live music, a surprise guest speaker, and fun activities involving current AYPO musicians. All proceeds from this event provide critical support for AYPO programs. Details about AYPO's extensive search process for Music Director are below and can be found at www.aypo.org under the "About Us" tab. The official announcement will be made to the general public at the American Youth Philharmonic concert on Sunday, April 11, 2010, 3:00pm at the Rachel M. Schlesinger Concert Hall and Arts Center of Northern Virginia Community College in Alexandria. Members of the press should contact Michelle Wallace to reserve media passes: mwallace@aypo.org, (703) 642-8051, x.22.

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 conducted AYP on November 15th and Daniel Spalding conducted AYP on January 31st. The New Music Director will be announced at AYPO's annual gala, "A Rite of Spring", on Saturday, April 10, 2010 (reservations required; visit www.aypo.org for details). 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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