

## For Immediate Release

### AYPO Welcomes New Executive Director Jack Walton

**Falls Church, VA, January 7, 2011:** The American Youth Philharmonic Orchestras (AYPO) is pleased to welcome its new Executive Director, Jack Walton. The Executive Director is responsible for administrative oversight of the organization, development and marketing, and assuring responsible fiscal leadership of AYPO to secure the long-term future, enabling stable growth and delivery of the AYPO mission.

"Jack is passionate about AYPO," said Margaret S. Adams, President of the AYPO Board of Directors. "He brings to us more than 22 years of development work, both in musical organizations and in other associations: he has also served as an Executive Director. Jack has experience with young musicians and their parents, having begun his career as a choral director, a position which he held for 12 years. I look forward to working with Jack and moving AYPO to its next level."



Jack Walton, Executive Director

"It is my pleasure to join the American Youth Philharmonic Orchestra family as the new Executive Director," said Jack Walton. "I have been associated with AYPO at different times throughout the years as a donor, consultant, friend and admirer of the technical and musical artistry so frequently displayed by our student musicians. At first it was difficult to comprehend such artistry coming from such young people. Then, as I learned more about the program, I understood the commitment of students, parents, conductors, board members and staff. I am here to help lead the awareness and expansion of the AYPO brand so more students have the opportunity to experience the benefits of being part of the AYPO family."

Jack has a long history of success in the nonprofit world. He started his nonprofit career with the Dallas Symphony Orchestra Association and has held leadership positions in arts and other organizations for the past twenty-two years. He has demonstrated excellent skills building long-term relationships with the multiple stakeholders within organizations and the communities which provide funding support for these organizations. He has also had a parallel career in music as a singer and conductor having begun his professional life as a high school choral music teacher. He served as the Special Performances conductor for the Dallas Symphony Chorus for seven years and as a guest conductor for the Jefferson Music Festival at the Kennedy Center with a festival chorus and the Mid-Atlantic Chamber Orchestra. After moving to the area from Dallas, Jack sang with the Paul Hill Chorale and assisted the organization by conducting run-out concerts. You might have even seen Jack as the conductor of the Annual Wolf Trap Holiday Sing-Along for eleven years with the President's Own United States Marine Band. Jack lives in Ashburn, Virginia with his wife Sherry and loves to play golf in his spare time.

**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 led by Music Director Daniel Spalding, 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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