



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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LPO one of seven national organizations awarded grant through Carnegie Hall's PlayUSA program

(NEW ORLEANS) – For the second year in a row, the Louisiana Philharmonic Orchestra has been chosen to receive funding from Carnegie Hall's Weill Music Institute (WMI) as part of its **PlayUSA** program initiative. For the 2016-2017 season, the LPO will be awarded funding to support **Music for Life**, a program facilitated through the New Orleans based nonprofit Anna's Place NOLA, Homer Plessy Community School and Esperanza Charter School, offering disadvantaged youth the opportunity to study music intensively throughout the year in private and small-group settings with both LPO musicians and peers from the Greater New Orleans Youth Orchestras.

"We are excited to build on the success of our pilot season and expand PlayUSA to support seven organizations around the country that are bringing high-quality music education to students in their communities," said Sarah Johnson, Director of Carnegie Hall's Weill Music Institute. "Each project and organization selected takes a unique and innovative approach to instrumental music instruction and is committed to reaching a diverse group of motivated young people. Through PlayUSA, we are excited to support each of these programs, but equally important to us is the opportunity to nurture a strong community of organizations across the country who are doing this work and can share and learn from each other. Eventually we imagine that what we learn together might also be shared more broadly across the field."

Additional programs selected for PlayUSA are the Atlanta Music Project (Atlanta, GA); Metropolitan Youth Orchestras of Central Alabama/Scrollworks (Birmingham, AL); The People's Music School (Chicago, IL); Tocando After School Music Project (El Paso, TX); Youth Orchestra of St. Luke's (New York, NY); and Community MusicWorks (Providence, RI)

Now entering its fourth year, Music for Life provides youth in the New Orleans Tremé and Mid-City neighborhoods with an outlet for creative expression, increasing the number of music-oriented out-of-school activities available to them and supporting positive in-school performance, both academic and behavioral. All program components, including instruments, supplies, tickets to LPO Family Concerts, transportation and meals are provided at no cost to participants.

"We are so excited to be partnering with the PlayUSA network for a second year," said Amanda Wuerstlin, LPO Director of Education and Community Engagement. "The support and idea sharing between Carnegie and the other PlayUSA partners was invaluable to our work. I cannot wait to see what we can achieve in the coming season."

"Anna's Place NOLA is thrilled to be part of an on-going collaboration with the Louisiana Philharmonic Orchestra," said Anna's Place NOLA Director Darryl Durham. "Our students and their families have benefited greatly from our relationship. Now, with the recognition we've received from Carnegie Hall, it's clear that we are on the cutting edge of arts education in this country."

For more information, contact Sean Snyder, LPO Director of Marketing and Communications, at sean.snyder@lpomusic.com or 504-523-6530, ext. 201.

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About the Louisiana Philharmonic Orchestra

The Louisiana Philharmonic Orchestra (LPO) is dedicated to maintaining live orchestral music and a full-scale symphonic

orchestra as an integral part of the cultural and educational life of the New Orleans area, the entire state of Louisiana, and the Gulf South region. Formed in 1991, the LPO is the oldest full-time musician-governed and collaboratively-operated orchestra in the United States.

The LPO offers a full 36-week season with more than 120 performances, including classics, light classics, pops, education, family, park and community engagement concerts in New Orleans and across multi-parish areas. In addition, The LPO collaborates with and provides orchestral support for other cultural and performing arts organizations, including New Orleans Opera Association, New Orleans Vocal Arts Chorale, New Orleans Ballet Association and Delta Festival Ballet.

About Anna's Place NOLA

Anna's Place NOLA promotes healing and wholeness of body, mind and spirit in the Tremé/7th Ward and Greater New Orleans community by offering academic, cultural, and arts enrichment; holistic health care; and healthy lifestyle education.

About Homer Plessy Community School

The Plessy School's arts-integrated, project-based curriculum provides a stimulating environment that insists on academic excellence in a developmentally appropriate setting. At Plessy, we want our students to mature into whole, healthy people who are confident about their gifts and their place in the world as citizens, who have keen minds and compassionate hearts and who contribute to a world that needs them. We are committed to an academic program that emphasizes academic excellence, creativity and a passion for life-long learning.

About Esperanza Charter School

The mission of Esperanza Charter School is to prepare its students for success in a college-preparatory high school in an atmosphere that challenges and supports each student to achieve his or her potential. The values we will inculcate in our students are Respect, Responsibility, and Reach. We will remind ourselves of these each day at morning assembly when we recite the values and the simple, declarative sentences that remind us of our purpose.

About PlayUSA

PlayUSA provides support for new or expanded music education programs, all working on a local level. During the 2015 – 2016 pilot season, Carnegie Hall invited orchestras across the country that already partner with WMI on its Link Up program to apply for PlayUSA. This year, applications were made available to a wider array of music education organizations of all different types across the country, resulting in 75 letters of intent, of which 17 were invited to submit full applications.

During its pilot year, funding from PlayUSA enabled the Columbus Symphony Orchestra (Ohio) to launch CSO Instructs, a program that offers year-long private lessons with orchestra musicians; supported the expansion of the El Paso Symphony Orchestra's Tocando program; and provided youth in the Tremé neighborhood of New Orleans with an outlet for creative expression through the Louisiana Philharmonic Orchestra's Music for Life program. During the 2016 – 2017 season, the PlayUSA network will more than double, reaching seven programs around the country, including continued support for Tocando and Music for Life.

PlayUSA is part of a growing set of WMI programs that have expanded beyond New York City to reach students and teachers nationwide. The Link Up program now serves approximately 380,000 students and teachers around the globe through more than 90 partner orchestras, and Musical Explorers for grades K-2 reaches thousands more in New York City and at four national partner sites.

PlayUSA also complements NYO2, an expansion of Carnegie Hall's National Youth Orchestra of the USA (NYO-USA). Launching later this month, this intensive summer program gives young American musicians from communities underserved by and underrepresented in the classical orchestral field the opportunity to study with members of The Philadelphia Orchestra and meet talented peers from across the country.

About Carnegie Hall's Weill Music Institute

Carnegie Hall's **Weill Music Institute** (WMI) creates visionary programs that embody Carnegie Hall's commitment to music education, playing a central role in fulfilling the Hall's mission of making great music accessible to as many people as possible. With unparalleled access to the world's greatest artists, WMI's programs are designed to inspire audiences of all ages, nurture tomorrow's musical talent, and harness the power of music to make a meaningful difference in people's lives. An integral part of Carnegie Hall's concert season, these programs facilitate creative expression, develop musical skills and capacities at all levels, and encourage participants to make lifelong personal connections to music. The Weill Music Institute generates new knowledge

through original research and is committed to giving back to its community and the field, sharing an extensive range of online music education resources and program materials for free with teachers, orchestras, arts organizations, and music lovers worldwide. Approximately 600,000 people each year engage in WMI's programs through national and international partnerships, in New York City schools and community settings, and at Carnegie Hall. This includes 380,000 students and teachers worldwide who participate in WMI's Link Up music education program for students in grades 3 through 5, made possible through Carnegie Hall partnerships with over 90 orchestras in the US, Brazil, Canada, Japan, Kenya, and Spain. For more information, visit carnegiehall.org/education.