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LOUISIANA PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA ELECTS SIX NEW MEMBERS TO BOARD OF TRUSTEES

NEW ORLEANS – The Louisiana Philharmonic Orchestra (LPO), the region’s premiere Orchestra based in New Orleans, and Executive Director Anwar Nasir with Board of Trustees President Dr. Bernard Jaffe are pleased to announce six new members to the LPO’s Board of Trustees. On June 5, 2023, Luis Banos, Brittany Major, and Barbara Sands were elected to join the board along with Chris Beary, Cyril Saulny, and Stephen Smith were appointed throughout the 22-23 season.

“This talented group of professionals brings diverse life experiences, expertise, and unheralded passion for orchestral music in the region,” says Nasir. “As we continue to deepen our connection to our community, their trusted opinions will help continue to guide the LPO in collaboration with our musicians and community trustees to be of the utmost service to our community.”

The Board of Trustees will continue to be led by Dr. Bernard Jaffe as Board President. Leadership also includes Orchestra President and Founder, Jim Atwood, and Adelaide Wisdom Benjamin Music Director and Principal Conductor, Matthew Kraemer.

ABOUT THE NEW BOARD MEMBERS

LUIS BANOS



J. Luis Banos, Jr. currently serves as the Honorary Consul of Spain and is the Chief Executive Officer and Chairman of the Board of ORX Exploration Inc., headquartered in New Orleans, LA. The company is engaged in exploration and development activities along the central U.S. Gulf Coast and is actively expanding its presence and leadership position in that area with sub-salt, onshore exploration. Banos is a member of the Professional Landmen Association of New Orleans (PLANO) and also a former member of the Board of Directors of the Metropolitan Crime Commission (MCC). Before joining the LPO’s Board of Trustees, Banos served on the board of the Audubon Nature Institute. Banos’ commitment to the city of New Orleans has been demonstrated through his former involvement with the National Conference of Community and Justice and Exchange Oil & Gas Company.

He also served as Director of the New Orleans YMCA and is a former Business Council Member of the New Orleans Museum of Art.

CHRIS BEARY



William Christopher (“Chris”) Beary is a Social Entrepreneur. He is a lifetime New Orleanian with four amazing daughters. Chris attended the University of New Orleans where he received his Bachelor’s in Accounting; he later went on to Tulane University School of Law to complete his J.D. where he graduated Cum Laude. Chris has focused on many community endeavors, moving from law and business to service work, in recent years. Over the past three decades, Chris has founded six non-profits and is currently managing five of them including Grace at the Green Light, The Fat Bankers Social Aid & Pleasure Club, The Funky Uncle Live, Northshore Radio, and, his latest endeavor, The Louisiana Music & Heritage Experience. Chris also practiced law for over 25 years, 17 of which he spent as a managing partner of his own firm. During his time as a lawyer, Chris was awarded the “AV” rating by the Martindale-Hubbell rating service which also awarded him the Silver Client Champion Award (given to less than 1% of lawyers).

BRITTANY MAJOR



Brittany Major, President and CEO of New Orleans’ based, Major Services, Inc., a family-owned and operated IT firm, providing IT consulting services for over 29 years. Brittany is responsible for creating, planning, implementing, and integrating the strategic direction of the multi-million-dollar company. Brittany brings over 15 years of global finance, banking and economic development experience to Major Services Inc. Brittany holds a Bachelor of Arts in Economics and Mathematics from Spelman College and a Master of Business Administration from Tulane University. Brittany is a Board Member of the New Orleans Jazz & Heritage Foundation, WWOZ, a non-profit community-supported radio station in New Orleans, St. Augustine High School and Boys Hope Girls Hope, New Orleans.

BARBARA SANDS



Although working as a social worker for several years after graduating from Wheaton College, Barbara followed a different path and chose to become actively involved as a community volunteer wherever she and her husband were stationed with the Army. Each move provided an opportunity to become engaged in a new effort. In 1989, she was given a commendation by the Mayor of Vicksburg, Mississippi for her ongoing work with the shelter for battered women as well as the key to the city for her role in establishing the shelter. Upon retiring, she was President of the Ben Franklin Parents Association, Board Member and Volunteer Adoption Unit Counselor for New Orleans Children's Bureau, Chair of the Preservation Resource Center's Shotgun House Month, and has served on the boards of The Women's Opera Guild, AMICI, MASNO, BRAVO, and KIDsmART. However, her main focus was to serve and support the newly formed LPO. Her efforts included chairing the Children's Concert Education Committee, Previews, Philharmonic Fling, Encore with Entremont, Symphony Book Fair, Windsor Court Recital, Music Salons, and the Encore Shop. She served as president from 1996-1997 and again from 2021-2023. The Sands were also named Great Lady and Great Gentleman Award by the East Jefferson Hospital.

CYRIL SAULNY



Mr. Saulny was born and raised in Tremé neighborhood of New Orleans. His professional career spans over forty years and over several disciplines, job responsibilities, and organizations – New Orleans Recreation Department, Regional Transit Authority, Black Collegiate Services Inc. publisher of The Black Collegian Magazine, New Orleans, Job Corps Centers, Clear Channel Radio New Orleans, and Big "E" Transportation. He obtained a Bachelor of Arts Degree from Xavier University of Louisiana in Political Science. He is a fellow of the Loyola University of the South Institute of Politics, attended the Quantitative Skills Summer Institute at Carnegie Mellon University, and is a fellow of the People's Institute for Survival and Beyond.

STEPHEN SMITH



Mr. Smith is an attorney based in New Orleans, LA that represents clients in both civil and criminal matters. Mr. Smith is a graduate of the Southern University Law Center and Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University. He is admitted to practice in all State and Federal Courts in Louisiana. He is a member of the Louisiana State Bar Association, the Louisiana Association for Justice, The National Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers, and the Louis A. Martinet Legal Society.

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About Louisiana Philharmonic Orchestra

Steeped in history yet focused on innovation, the Louisiana Philharmonic Orchestra (LPO) is the only full-time collaboratively governed and operated orchestra in the United States. Under the leadership of Music Director, Matthew Kraemer, the LPO is rooted in a culturally diverse community with a two-hundred-year orchestral music tradition, the LPO sets the standard for orchestral programming and performance in Louisiana. For our sixty-seven musicians, achieving the highest level of artistry is integrally linked with a personal investment in our organization and our community.

Visit lpomusic.com to learn more.