

## Jacksonville Symphony Poised for More Growth; Will Add New Assistant Conductor Position

Jacksonville, FL (May 1, 2017) --- The Jacksonville Symphony President and CEO Robert Massey announced that further expansion of the organization will include a new Assistant Conductor position, auditions for which will take place at the end of May. The new Assistant Conductor, in addition to conducting the Jacksonville Symphony in select performances and assisting Music Director Courtney Lewis, will also serve as Principal Conductor of the Jacksonville Symphony Youth Orchestras. Scott C. Gregg, current Music Director and Principal Conductor of the JSYO, will be leaving the organization at the end of this season.

Gregg served 22 years in the Winston Family Endowed Chair with the JSYO. During that time he has seen the organization grow from 60 to more than 400 members. He started his music career at the Greater Dallas Youth Orchestra where he was named concertmaster. After receiving his undergraduate degree from Harvard University with a concentration in music theory and composition, he studied conducting at Baltimore's Peabody Conservatory of Music. He is the former Music Director for Education at the Jacksonville Symphony and founder of the First Coast Community Music School.

"We are very grateful for all the years that Scott has given to the Symphony and the children of North Florida," said Massey. "His service has started us on a path for continued growth."

The Symphony plans to continue the expansion of the JSYO program to include more North Florida children and to add more satellite facilities. This past season, the Symphony established a Clay County program for Foundation Strings I and II at the Wehner School of the Arts. This satellite was in addition to the JSYO's core rehearsal facility at the FSCJ South Campus. Music Director Courtney Lewis is also planning to increase his involvement with JSYO by conducting the annual Major/Minor concert during the 2017-2018 season. Major/Minor features JSYO Philharmonic and Repertory Orchestra students performing on stage at Jacoby Hall with Symphony musicians.

"It is an exciting time for the next step in the growth of the Jacksonville Symphony Youth Orchestra," said Kathryn Rudolph, Director of Education and Community Engagement. "We are taking audition applications for the upcoming year right now with a deadline of May 15. The opportunity to be part of a major youth orchestra that is affiliated with the Jacksonville Symphony should be an attraction for many of our youth musicians."

The last JSYO concert of the season will be Sunday night, May 14 at 5pm at Jacoby Symphony Hall in the Times-Union Center for the Performing Arts. Tickets are \$5 for children and \$10 for adults and are available at [jaxsymphony.org](http://jaxsymphony.org).