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## JACKSONVILLE SYMPHONY NAMES DEANNA THAM AS ASSISTANT CONDUCTOR & PRINCIPAL CONDUCTOR OF THE JACKSONVILLE SYMPHONY YOUTH ORCHESTRAS

Jacksonville, FL (June 7, 2017) – Robert Massey, President and CEO of the Jacksonville Symphony, announced that after an intensive international search that attracted over 75 candidates, Deanna Tham has been hired as the Assistant Conductor for the Jacksonville Symphony and Principal Conductor of the Jacksonville Symphony Youth Orchestras effective July 1, 2017.

The search process included eight semi-finalists who each visited Jacksonville and conducted the Jacksonville Symphony. Three candidates were invited to the final round, where they made educational presentations replicating the work the Symphony does in its Preludes Youth Concerts. The candidates also each coached a brass quintet made up of young musicians.

Ms. Tham was unanimously selected as the winner by a committee comprised of Courtney Lewis, Symphony Music Director; Robert Massey, President and CEO; Nathan Aspinall, Associate Conductor; Kathryn Rudolph, Director of Education and Community Engagement; and Tony Nickle, Director of Artistic Operations, along with the ballots of each participating musician of the Jacksonville Symphony.

In her new role as Assistant Conductor of the Jacksonville Symphony and Music Director/Principal Conductor of the Jacksonville Symphony Youth Orchestras, a position endowed by the Winston family, Ms. Tham will work with Symphony staff to create and conduct the Symphony's education programs, including Family Concerts, Preludes and Young People's Concerts. She will conduct the JSYO Philharmonic and Repertory Orchestras, as well as actively manage recruitment initiatives, curriculum, orientation, retreats and concerto competitions. Ms. Tham will also serve as cover conductor to Music Director Courtney Lewis and will conduct select Jacksonville Symphony concerts.

Prior to joining the Jacksonville Youth Orchestras, Ms. Tham had been the Music Director of the 350-piece Louisville Youth Orchestra since 2016. In addition, she was previously the Music Director of the Boise Philharmonic Youth Orchestra and has conducted the Boise Philharmonic and Ballet Idaho, and Opera Idaho. Hailing from Saratoga, California, Ms. Tham has conducted and guest conducted all over the United States, most recently working with renowned conductors Marin Alsop and James Ross at the Cabrillo Contemporary Music Festival. Ms. Tham has served as the Assistant Conductor for the Cleveland Orchestra Youth Orchestra, where she also received a Professional Studies Certificate from the Cleveland Institute of Music in Orchestral Conducting, studying with Maestro Carl Topilow. Ms. Tham received a Bachelor of Arts degree in Horn Performance from Carnegie Mellon University. She received her Master of Music degree in conducting with honors from Northwestern University.

Courtney Lewis, Jacksonville Symphony Music Director, said of Ms. Tham, "I am delighted to welcome Deanna to the Jacksonville Symphony family. Her experience leading the Louisville Youth Orchestra and working with professional orchestras makes her the perfect fit for our new assistant conductor position. I'm very excited to watch her lead the Jacksonville Symphony Youth Orchestras during this time of unprecedented growth, and to work with her as she conducts the Jacksonville Symphony."

Ms. Tham said of her new opportunity, "I'm beyond excited to come to Jacksonville and work with the Jacksonville Symphony Youth Orchestra family. It is one of my greatest joys to help young musicians discover their voices, be in awe of what those voices can create, and take that into the world. It is an honor to come into a community with so much passion for and dedication to developing the creativity and voices of their young people. I am eager to continue that spirit, push boundaries and reach new heights with the incredible potential that the Jacksonville Symphony Youth Orchestras have."

The Jacksonville Symphony is Northeast Florida's leading music non-profit, offering live performances at Jacoby Hall in the Times-Union Center for Performing Arts and other venues throughout the area. In addition, the Symphony provides music instruction for youth and operates the Jacksonville Symphony Youth Orchestras. For more information about the Symphony, visit [www.jaxsymphony.org](http://www.jaxsymphony.org), like them at [www.facebook.com/JaxSymphony](https://www.facebook.com/JaxSymphony), follow them on Twitter @jaxsymphony, on Instagram at JaxSymphony and on YouTube at Jacksonville Symphony.