

SAN DIEGO SYMPHONY

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MEDIA CONTACT

Carrie Jones

MeadsDurket

619-688-5248

cjones@meadsdurket.com

San Diego Symphony Appoints Vice President of Education and Community Management and Director of Artistic Planning

Two new hires and a seasoned consultant enhance executive and management teams

San Diego, Calif. – The San Diego Symphony has added key staff members to its team: Maria Cecilia Araujo as vice president of education and community engagement, and Clement So as director of artistic planning. Rounding out the artistic team is Aurelie Desmarais, who began as a consultant in September in the role of senior advisor in the artistic planning department.

Araujo, who began her work in early October, brings tremendous national and international experience to San Diego and most recently served as a teaching artist with the Miami Music Project. As VP of education and community engagement for the San Diego Symphony, Araujo will be responsible for the planning, development, and implementation of robust and exciting educational programs for all ages as well as developing alliances for the orchestra with cultural and community organizations throughout San Diego.

During her time with the Miami Music Project, Araujo worked to support social transformation in under-served communities. Prior to Miami, Araujo was president and CEO of Orquesta Sinfónica Municipal de Caracas where she was responsible for steering the 100-member orchestra and its administrative staff towards the accomplishment of its mission. She spent the early 2000s as the VP of education and community engagement for the New Jersey Orchestra and prior to that was the head of the music department and music instructor for the United Nations International School New York. Her impressive career also included positions at the Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York and the Bel Canto Opera, New York.

Desmarais, who has been working with the Symphony since last month in the role of senior advisor in the artistic planning department, will be working with San Diego Symphony staff on the successful implementation and completion of all details for the 2017-18 season while a search for a new vice president of artistic planning is undertaken. Desmarais was director of artistic planning for the Houston Symphony for 21 years, and before that worked with the Toronto Symphony and the National Arts Center Orchestra in Ottawa. She will work closely with Nancy Chalifour, who has been guiding the programming of the Jacobs Masterworks series for two seasons and will continue to work on the 2018-19 season.

Clement So joins the San Diego Symphony on November 1 after spending more than 10 years

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with the 92nd Street Y in New York as artistic administrator. So collaborated on the programming and artistic planning, booking and producing annual concert seasons of over 80 classical, jazz, American songbook, family, multi-disciplinary and special fundraising events. He was also the manager for special projects including, "The Culture of Terezin (Theresienstadt)" exhibition and "The Well-Tweeted Clavier." So also has great experience in promotion and social media. Prior to 92Y, So was an assistant at the Yale University Irving S. Gilmore Music Library.

As director of artistic planning, So will be a key partner in all aspects of the San Diego Symphony Orchestra's artistic planning for the winter and summer seasons. His expertise in chamber music, as well as his knowledge of a wide range of styles fits well with the orchestras ongoing Jazz @ the Jacobs series, chamber music series, and City Lights as well as programming at Bayside Summer Nights.

To purchase tickets or view a full listing of this season's performances, visit www.sandiegosymphony.org.

About the San Diego Symphony

Founded in 1910, the San Diego Symphony is the oldest orchestra in California and one of the largest and most significant cultural organizations in San Diego. The Orchestra performs for over 250,000 people each season, offering a wide variety of programming at its two much loved venues, Copley Symphony Hall in downtown San Diego and the Embarcadero Marina Park South on San Diego Bay. The orchestra's 82 full-time musicians, graduates of the finest and most celebrated music schools in the United States and abroad, also serve as the orchestra for the San Diego Opera each season, as well as performing at several regional performing arts centers. For over 30 years, the San Diego Symphony has provided comprehensive music education and community engagement programs reaching more than 65,000 students annually and bringing innovative programming to San Diego's diverse neighborhoods and schools. For more information, visit www.sandiegosymphony.org.

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