

**San Diego Symphony**  
1245 Seventh Avenue  
San Diego, CA 92101  
[www.sandiegosymphony.com](http://www.sandiegosymphony.com)

*News Release*

November 20, 2014

---

### **Jahja Ling Announces 2016-2017 Season Will Be His Last As Music Director**

Jahja Ling, Music Director of the San Diego Symphony Orchestra since 2004, announced today that the 2016-17 season would be his final season as music director. Speaking to the San Diego Symphony board of directors, musicians and administrative staff, Ling said, "The 2016-17 season will mark my 13<sup>th</sup> anniversary with this wonderful organization and my final season as music director. These past 11 years have been a most rewarding and exhilarating life journey for me. We have accomplished so much, but I am most proud of the fact that I have been able to inspire and instill the spirit of integrity in everything that we do at the San Diego Symphony Orchestra."

Ling added, "After the 2016-17 season, I look forward to pursuing more international guest conducting, passing on the great musical traditions to the next generation through teaching and continuing with my volunteer work in Christian mission. I am hopeful and confident that the future of this fine orchestra, led by our new CEO Martha Gilmer and supported by our talented administrative staff and committed board of directors, will be bright."

Martha Gilmer, CEO of the San Diego Symphony Orchestra, said, "It is characteristic of the personal and artistic integrity that is associated with Jahja Ling that he has made this thoughtful decision with the foresight to allow the San Diego Symphony Orchestra the time to search for a successor to continue the remarkable work that Jahja has accomplished here. We look forward to Jahja Ling's upcoming seasons and want him to know how very much we appreciate all that he has done for this wonderful organization."

Gilmer continued, "In recognition of Jahja's commitment, years of growth and artistic building he has achieved with this orchestra, I am very happy to announce that at the end of his tenure, the board of directors has conferred the title of Conductor Laureate. With this title we will be welcoming him as a continuing guest conductor with our orchestra."

Chairman of the Board, Shearn Platt, commented "We are so grateful to our Music Director Jahja Ling for his wonderful work with the San Diego Symphony and with our community over the years. He has been an exemplary leader, bringing many wonderful musicians to the orchestra, and shaping the sound of the San Diego Symphony over his years of working with them. We look forward to celebrating him at the close of his tenure, honor him with the title Conductor Laureate and to properly express our gratitude to him for all that he has done and will do in the coming seasons."

Jahja Ling, the longest serving Music Director in the history of the San Diego Symphony, inherited the great Central European and American musical traditions through his work with legendary conductors and teachers including Leonard Bernstein, Christoph von Dohnanyi, Kurt Masur, Otto-Werner Mueller (who was a student of Richard Strauss) and Edo de Waart. Along with 30 years of ongoing collaboration with The Cleveland Orchestra, these experiences formed the basis of his work with the San Diego Symphony Orchestra, whose sound and discipline reflect this great tradition. During Ling's tenure, he has overseen the appointment of 63 extraordinary musicians to the orchestra.

The orchestra has grown in size and stature under Ling's stewardship to its current rank as a Tier 1 American Orchestra, and the orchestra regularly welcomes top level guest artists and soloists who recognize the high level of performance and music making Jahja Ling has created with the San Diego Symphony Orchestra. Maestro Ling has greatly expanded the orchestra's repertoire, performing many pieces for the first time in the history of the orchestra including commissioning new works by prominent living composers such as David Bruce, Lucas Richman, Bright Sheng and Michael Torke. The orchestra has released two commercial recordings under Ling, and seven CDs of

live performances including works of Berlioz, Brahms, Grieg, Haydn, Mahler, Rachmaninoff, Rimsky Korsakov, Schumann, and Tchaikovsky. Its performances are broadcast weekly on KPBS, 52 weeks a year. One of the major highlights of Ling's tenure as Music Director was the orchestra's critically acclaimed debut appearance at Carnegie Hall to a sold-out audience and its first international tour to China in the fall of 2013.

**Contact:**  
**Stephen Kougias**  
**Director of Public Relations**  
**San Diego Symphony**  
**Office Direct: 619.615.3951**  
[skougias@sandiegosymphony.org](mailto:skougias@sandiegosymphony.org)

# # #