

**The San Diego Symphony Orchestra Association
Annual Members Meeting
October 30, 2025**

I. Call to Order

Chair Dave Snyder called the meeting to order via livestream pursuant to notice duly given.

II. Approval of Minutes

Upon motion duly made and seconded, the minutes of the October 30, 2024, meeting were approved as presented.

III. Board Elections

Mr. Snyder reported that Elizabeth Larsen had been appointed by the Board of Directors to serve as Inspector of Elections for the meeting. Mr. Snyder reviewed the process by which the Association maintains a classified Board of Directors, with approximately one-third of the Board standing for re-election each year for a three-year term. Ms. Larsen reported that sufficient proxies had been received to elect the slate of nominees as directors of the Association.

Upon motion duly made and seconded, the election of the following slate of nominees for election as directors of the Association for terms expiring at the Annual Meeting of 2028 or until their successors are duly elected was approved as follows: Anthony Boganey, M.D., FACS; Julia Brown; David R. Snyder, Esq.; and Frank Vizcarra.

Mr. Snyder reported that at the Board of Directors meeting held earlier the same day had voted on the Slate of Officers for the upcoming board year, effective upon conclusion of the Annual Meeting of Members. He listed the officers for the next fiscal year.

IV. Amended and Restated Articles of Incorporation

Mr. Snyder reported that outside counsel had recommended that the Association adopt Amended and Restated Articles of Incorporation both to modernize our Charter and to help assure our continued tax-exempt status, noting that the Board of Directors has already adopted the Amendment and that approval was also required of the Members.

Upon motion duly made and seconded, the adoption of the Amended and Restated Articles of Incorporation were approved by the Members as presented.

V. State of the Symphony Presentation

Mr. Snyder reported that the Association has accomplished a great deal in the past year, noting the artistic growth of the Orchestra, as well as the organizational and operation improvements Management and Board have implemented for the future. Mr. Snyder stated that the Association faces headwinds in building audience engagement and connecting with our community and asked that all Member join the Board, Management, and staff in advocating for our Orchestra.

Mr. Snyder introduced a pre-recorded message from Music and Artistic Director Rafael Payare. Mr. Payare highlighted the artistic successes of the past season, including the orchestra's triumphant return to Jacobs Music Center following the renovation of the hall, showcasing the wonderfully improved acoustic qualities of the venue. Mr. Payare shared that the season was bookended with Mahler's 2nd Symphony opening the season and with Mahler 3rd Symphony closing the season, noting the creation of the San Diego Symphony Chorus, and highlighting that the season's musical programming celebrated the Orchestra's homecoming to Jacobs Music Center. Performances like Prokofiev's *Romeo and Juliet* illuminated the successful transformation of the hall into a versatile venue for many different types of productions and the ability to perform larger works by Bruckner.

Mr. Snyder then introduced Kathleen Davis, Treasurer and Chair of the Finance Committee. Ms. Davis gave a preliminary report of the Association's fiscal year 2025 financial results, noting that the financial results were still subject to completion of the audit. Ms. Davis concluded her report by giving thanks to the Finance Committee and to the staff for their hard work.

Mr. Snyder then introduced Martha Gilmer, President and CEO of the San Diego Symphony Orchestra.

Ms. Gilmer presented a comprehensive review of the 2024–25 season, reflecting on the challenges and successes of the year. Ms. Gilmer expressed her gratitude to Irwin and the late Joan Jacobs for the tremendous support which made the renovation of Jacobs Music Center and its wonderful new acoustical properties possible. Ms. Gilmer stated that with the reopening of Jacobs Music Center this past year, the Association now operated and programmed two music venues simultaneously, bringing more people together than ever before to experience music as a community.

Ms. Gilmer reported that the Summer 2024 season at The Rady Shell at Jacobs Park had seen record attendance and featured collaborations between the orchestra and artists such as John Legend, Audra McDonald, Ziggy Marley, Jason Mraz, and Pink Martini, and played host to tours by Harry Connick Jr, Jewel, Melissa Etheridge, Los Lobos, Stick Figure, Norah Jones, Leon Bridges, and so many more.

Ms. Gilmer stated that on September 28, 2024, Jacobs Music Center opened its doors again after a three-year renovation with a spectacular three-day opening weekend celebration designed to showcase our orchestra, including a ribbon cutting ceremony which also featured the first official act on the new stage of swearing in Music Director Rafael Payare as a U.S. citizen, and Day of Music free event in which we invited the community to make the new venue "their" home. Ms. Gilmer reported that over 5,000 people came through the doors with more than 600 artists representing the incredible diversity of the San Diego-Tijuana region.

Ms. Gilmer shared that the Jacobs Masterworks season that followed was memorable and remarkable in so many ways, with Mahler's Symphony No. 2 "*Resurrection*" and Symphony No. 3 bookending the season. We showcased our newly upgraded organ in Saint Saens' Organ Symphony and pushed the boundaries of our new dramatic capabilities in Prokofiev's *Romeo & Juliet*.

Ms. Gilmer reviewed the Symphony's Innovation & Impact Report, which detailed expanded community and educational programming across the San Diego region. Ms. Gilmer reported that the Music Connects program, featuring members of the orchestra, takes music to those people who may not be able to come to our performance spaces. Ms. Gilmer shared that family programming continued to expand with the *Symphony Kids* series with interactive concerts introducing each instrument family, the Family concerts series, including a *Diá de los Muertos* concert honoring loved ones through music and dance, and our school programs which more students than ever before. The *Melody and Harmony* program grew from over 6,000 students in its pilot year to more than 10,200 students this year, across 103 schools, almost half of the being Title 1 schools. Ms. Gilmer stated that the High School Ambassadors program has grown from four students in its inaugural year to 30 students this year with 150 applicants for those 30 spots. This program immerses the ambassadors in the world of arts management, teaches them business, presentation and personal finance skills, and shows them how the arts shape communities.

Ms. Gilmer noted that at the heart of all the Symphony does are our musicians and introduced Aaron Blick, Bass; Kate Hatmaker, Violin; and Kevin Gobetz, Bass, to share their favorite highlights of the 2024-25 Jacobs Masterworks Season. Mr. Blick shared how special it was to be present for the reopening of the hall and performing two Mahler symphonies as well as two Strauss tone poems, both challenging and rewarding. Mr. Gobetz added it was such an expansive season programmatically with the breadth and diversity of repertoire as well as the pairing of the guest conductors with that repertoire. Ms. Hatmaker shared that the artistic highs were unprecedented, especially hearing the choir in rehearsals for the first time on our new stage. All three musicians spoke of how wonderful the Family and Music Connects concerts were to participate on being out in the community.

Ms. Gilmer then recognized the new musicians who recently joined the San Diego Symphony Orchestra, three new violists resulting in a full section for the first time in many years: Xander Knecht, Sung Jin Lee, and Victor Li; two new cello players, Vivian Chang and Maximus Gurath; and Principal Second Violin Katia Tesarczyk. Ms. Gilmer shared that in January, the Symphony recognized 35 years of service of Hernan Constantino, Violin, who is a passionate educator, conductor, and musician. Ms. Gilmer stated that Hernan will continue to have a profound impact on young musicians for years to come.

Ms. Gilmer noted that as part of the recent renovation of Jacobs Music Center, we now have a state of the art sound and video recording studio and shared a short recording excerpt of this past season's performance of Mahler's Third Symphony, the end of the first movement.

Ms. Gilmer concluded her report expressing her gratitude to the staff, and the Symphony and Foundation Boards for their work in navigating the significant challenges and opportunities throughout the year. Ms. Gilmer also thanked our partner, The Port of San Diego, with whom we created a unique partnership between a not-for-profit organization and a coastal park.

Mr. Snyder thanked Martha for her report and for her leadership throughout her tenure. Mr. Snyder recognized Board members whose service concludes with this Annual Meeting of Members: our Treasurer and Finance Committee Chair, David Bialis; former Board Chair Ben

Clay,; and Janet Gorrie have all served faithfully for many years. Mr. Snyder thanked them for their active engagement with and support for the Association.

V. Adjournment

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda Platt, Secretary

(Recorded by Elizabeth Larsen, Director Executive Office and Board Relations)