



PRESS RELEASE

Patrick Castillo to Join San Diego Symphony as Artistic Planning Consultant

Acclaimed artistic planner, composer, and writer begins consulting role August 1.

San Diego, CA (July 21, 2026) – The San Diego Symphony today announced that Patrick Castillo will join the organization as Artistic Planning Consultant beginning August 1.

Castillo most recently served as vice president for artistic planning for the New York Philharmonic. Previously, he was senior director of artistic planning for the Saint Paul Chamber Orchestra. A composer, writer and lecturer, he is also the founding composer and managing director of Third Sound and previously served as executive director of the contemporary music collective Hotel Elefant.

At the San Diego Symphony, Castillo will collaborate with Music and Artistic Director Rafael Payare and the Symphony's artistic planning team on programming the Jacobs Masterworks series, summer classical performances at The Rady Shell at Jacobs Park, and other special symphonic projects.

"Patrick brings remarkable artistic curiosity, deep knowledge of the repertoire, and a passion for discovering meaningful connections between music and audiences," said Martha Gilmer, President and CEO of the San Diego Symphony. "His experience and collaborative spirit will be invaluable as we continue shaping ambitious seasons for our musicians and our community."

Castillo is known for his creativity in programming. During his tenure with the New York Philharmonic, he spearheaded the commissions of more than 30 new works over five seasons, including the design of a new orchestral version of Frederic Rzewski's *The People United Will Never Be Defeated*, collaboratively orchestrated by a cohort of 18 composers, which represented the New York Philharmonic's signature project commemorating the 250th anniversary of the United States. Castillo will remain based in New York while traveling regularly to San Diego throughout the season.

About San Diego Symphony

The San Diego Symphony stands among the nation's leading orchestras and serves as a dynamic cultural ambassador for the United States and the San Diego region. Led by President and Chief Executive Officer Martha Gilmer and Music and Artistic Director Rafael Payare, its 82 internationally distinguished musicians bring artistry of the highest caliber to audiences at home and abroad. Globally connected and firmly grounded in its community, the Symphony's artistic life is anchored by two iconic venues: The Rady Shell at Jacobs Park, a striking open air performance space on the San Diego waterfront, and Jacobs Music Center, a historic theater renovated to become a premiere concert hall and architectural landmark. Together, these halls have transformed the cultural landscape of downtown San Diego and established distinctive homes for the Symphony's year-round work. Guided by its mission of Changing Lives Through Music, the Symphony's community programs serve more than 65,000 students, families, educators, military service members, and nonprofit partners each year.

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