



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
DECEMBER 21, 2016

## **South Dakota Symphony Orchestra selected for Music Alive Residency with American Indian composer Jerod Impichchaachaaha' Tate**

Sioux Falls, S.D. – Jerod Tate and South Dakota Symphony Orchestra (SDSO) are one of only five composer and orchestra pairs selected through a peer review panel process to participate in Music Alive, a national three-year composer-orchestra residency program of the League of American Orchestras and New Music USA.

Music Alive prioritizes collaborative work and immersive experiences for composers, orchestra musicians, artistic leadership, and community members. Music Alive hopes to demonstrate - through active partnership with the participating residency pairings - the power and value of living composers working at the center of American orchestras.

“The SDSO is truly honored to be partnering with New Music USA, alongside such venerable institutions as the Philadelphia Orchestra and St. Paul Chamber Orchestra,” said SDSO Music Director Delta David Gier. “The SDSO strives to build bridges in our community and across the state and region with the goal of connecting people through music, of creating understanding through sharing something we all love. Jerod Impichchaachaaha' Tate has already played an integral role in our Lakota Music Project. This new partnership will allow the orchestra to impact the communities we serve in even more significant ways.”

Praised and honored for “his ability to effectively infuse classical music with American Indian nationalism” (Washington Post), Jerod Impichchaachaaha' Tate is a citizen of the Chickasaw Nation and is dedicated to the development of American Indian classical composition. His commissioned works have been performed by major orchestras throughout the United States including the National Symphony Orchestra, San Francisco Symphony, Detroit Symphony Orchestra, and the Minnesota Orchestra. In 2011, Jerod received an Emmy Award for his work on the Oklahoma Educational Television Authority Documentary, *The Science of Composing*.

The SDSO chose Jerod as its composer because of a long-history of impactful work together, Jerod's passion for and success in mentoring young composers, and the partnership's ability to assist the SDSO in addressing the state-wide issue of race relations through the Lakota Music Project. The SDSO's work with Jerod began in 2009 with the commission of *Waktégli OlówaĎ* (Victory Songs), sung in Lakota, based on five Sioux Warriors. Jerod's residency will focus on realizing the SDSO's vision for Phase III of its Lakota Music Project which includes in depth residency in a small number of South Dakota Communities.

“We live in an era of unsurpassed compositional invention, as composers break musical barriers and redefine the rules,” said League of American Orchestras President and CEO Jesse Rosen. “This new iteration of Music Alive takes engagement several steps further, building opportunities for cohorts of composers to learn from each other, and for entire orchestra staffs and musicians, as well as their communities, to interact closely with these talented composers-in-residence.”

Music Alive is driven by a belief in the power of new work,” said New Music USA President and CEO Ed Harsh. “These new residencies will demonstrate even more powerfully than ever before the role that collaboration with living artists can play in vitalizing orchestras' connections to their communities.”

(continued)

For information, please contact  
Jake Windish, Marketing Assistant  
South Dakota Symphony Orchestra  
jake.windish@sdsymphony.org  
605 - 335 - 7933 ext. 10



More than visiting artists, the composers in residence will be centrally embedded within their orchestras, and their roles will be incorporated directly into the orchestras' operations, programming and curatorial decisions, and activities in their communities. Dedicated funding will be attached to the residency priorities, including workshopping, rehearsing, and developing new works or performing existing works by living composers; mentoring emerging composers through readings, shadowing, and other mentoring opportunities; and creating public access to the artistic process through open rehearsals, access to various media, and other points of entry. The composers, orchestra leadership teams, and program staff are also committed to engaging in a cohort-based planning process around the residency priorities, which will include virtual convenings as a group several times per year, as well as an annual in-person convening at the League's National Conference.

The five new Music Alive composer-orchestra pairings are:

Lembit Beecher and The Saint Paul Chamber Orchestra  
Anna Clyne and Berkeley Symphony  
Stacy Garrop and Champaign-Urbana Symphony Orchestra  
Hannibal Lokumbe and The Philadelphia Orchestra  
Jerod Tate and South Dakota Symphony Orchestra

Review criteria for the residencies were:

Artistry: the artistic merit of the composer's work and orchestra's performances

Opportunity: the partnership's potential for depth and innovation in residency work and in tackling the thematic priorities.

Capacity and commitment: the ability of the orchestra and composer to make the residency a success and to adhere to two core commitments -- having a centrally embedded composer and a cohort-based planning process.

---

### About Music Alive

Launched in 1999 as a joint program between Meet The Composer (now New Music USA) and the League of American Orchestras, Music Alive has been a steward and partner in a multitude of projects that foster strong working relationships between American orchestras and accomplished composers across the country. In its 17 years, the program has supported 115 composers, 77 orchestras, and 119 distinct residencies.

Music Alive is made possible due to a \$1.5 million lead grant from The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, with additional support from The Aaron Copland Fund for Music, the Francis Goelet Charitable Lead Trusts, The Amphion Foundation, and The ASCAP Foundation Bart Howard Fund.

---

The **South Dakota Symphony Orchestra** (SDSO) has been a visionary arts leader for over 94 years. The SDSO works to accomplish its mission: "To celebrate the tradition of live orchestral music and enrich the lives of people throughout our region" through concert, touring, education, and community engagement programs. The SDSO is grounded in five core values: Community Engagement, Creating Partnerships, Lifelong Impact, Educational Opportunities, and Live Symphonic

(continued)

For information, please contact  
Jake Windish, Marketing Assistant  
South Dakota Symphony Orchestra  
jake.windish@sdsymphony.org  
605 - 335 - 7933 ext. 10



Music. The orchestra's 21-concert season includes four series. The SDSO's touring program brings live orchestral music to over 20 communities in South Dakota. The organization answers the question of relevance to its unique demographics through award-winning education and community engagement programs. The SDSO's extensive community engagement program includes the Lakota Music Project, Music as Medicine, and High School Residency. These programs and others reach over 15,000 preschool through high school children and underserved populations each season. During the 2015-16 season, over 250 musical events were performed, serving over 54,000 people. In 2012 with the John S. Edwards Award which commended the orchestra for its commitment to New American Music, and again in 2013 with the Morton Gould Award for Adventurous Programming, honoring the orchestra for extraordinary efforts beyond the usual-and-accustomed activity. In 2016, the SDSO was awarded the Bush Prize for Community Innovation, honoring the orchestra's pioneering work in engaging its unique community.

---

The **League of American Orchestras** leads, supports, and champions America's orchestras and the vitality of the music they perform. Its diverse membership of more than 2,000 organizations and individuals across North America runs the gamut from world-renowned symphonies to community groups, from summer festivals to student and youth ensembles, from conservatories to libraries, from businesses serving orchestras to individuals who love symphonic music. The only national organization dedicated solely to the orchestral experience, the League is a nexus of knowledge and innovation, advocacy, and leadership advancement. Its conferences and events, award-winning Symphony magazine, website, and other publications inform people around the world about orchestral activity and developments. Founded in 1942 and chartered by Congress in 1962, the League links a national network of thousands of instrumentalists, conductors, managers and administrators, board members, volunteers, and business partners. Visit [americanorchestras.org](http://americanorchestras.org).

---

New Music USA is devoted to fostering the creation, dissemination, and enjoyment of new American music. New Music USA places special emphasis on broadening the public community for the music and musicians whom we serve. Advocacy in the broadest sense is at the heart of all of New Music USA's work. It is inherent in the work of the online magazine NewMusicBox and radio station Counterstream, in all of New Music USA's grantmaking activity—which distributes more than one million dollars each year to the field—and in New Music USA's role as a key voice in the national and international scenes. [NewMusicUSA.org](http://NewMusicUSA.org)

###

For information, please contact  
Jake Windish, Marketing Assistant  
South Dakota Symphony Orchestra  
[jake.windish@sdsymphony.org](mailto:jake.windish@sdsymphony.org)  
605 - 335 - 7933 ext. 10