



## For Immediate Release

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### Ground-Breaking Women in Music Symposium to Celebrate Accomplishments and Address Challenges

#### Symposium Seeks to Understand Past and Future of Women in Music

**Denver, CO, September 7, 2017 – Inspired by questions raised by young musicians regarding the representation of women in the industry, the Denver Young Artists Orchestra (DYAO) presents the Women in Music Symposium at the Newman Center for Performing Arts, October 7-8, 2017 .**

The premier youth orchestra of the Colorado Front Range, the Denver Young Artists Orchestra is a talented group, that also asks tough questions. When confronted with the underrepresented role of women in the classical music industry, they decided to face it head-on, with a two-day event focused on the issue. "We were humbled by the questions from our students and wanted to put together an event worthy of the issues," says Kelly Waltrip, Executive Director of the Denver Young Artists Orchestra.

In partnership with the Colorado Symphony and the Lamont School of Music at the University of Denver,



Oct. 7 will feature conversations about opportunities, successes, and challenges for women in music. Oct. 8 will be a culminating concert with DYAO and Carolyn Kunicki (right), horn for the Colorado Symphony, and a composition by Hilary Tann (left), titled, *The Open Field*. "The Colorado Symphony is proud to participate in the Women In Music Symposium. We believe in access and inclusion and creating pathways for women to succeed within our field," said Catherine Beeson, Director of Community and Education Programs at the Colorado Symphony.



Professionals, educators, students, composers and performers will gather to address the evolving experience for women in music.

The event features faculty from universities, including the Lamont School of Music, Colorado State University, and the University of Colorado-Boulder, performing, providing masterclasses, and lending expertise. Administrators, authors, and educators will participate in panels and interactive roundtable discussions. The Symposium also highlights performances of works by notable female composers, including a recital by musicians from the Colorado Symphony and lecture recitals from area faculty. Composers, including Hilary Tann, will be present to discuss their work. "It is incredibly exciting to see the community coming together, rallying around this idea and celebrating the amazing accomplishments of women in our field," said Waltrip.

The event is expected to draw participation from Denver and across the country. It is a recipient of an Imagine 2020 grant, a cultural plan focused on a collective vision for Denver. Denver's cultural and artistic presence on a national level is a solid platform for the Symposium to bring attention to inequity existing in the field. "We hope this event brings together everyone from students to professionals and provides opportunities for connection, inspiration and growth to all who attend," says Waltrip.

The culminating concert, Challenging Expectations, featuring DYAO, includes special guests, Carolyn Kunicki, horn, and Hilary Tann (right), composer of *The Open Field*. "I didn't understand until I was in college that conducting and composition had been male dominated throughout history," says Music Director of DYAO, Wes Kenney. "While there have been strides made in composition, members of major orchestras, and even their music directors, a closer look reveals there's still a long way to go. It's a

process of education and it's wonderful the Young Artist Orchestra can contribute." This concert is an exciting addition to the Denver Young Artist Orchestra's programming for its 40th Anniversary Season. Tickets can be purchased for the Women in Music Symposium, with admission to the concert, or as a separate concert ticket.

**Saturday, October 7, 2017:**

9:00am-6:00p.m.

Newman Center for the Performing Arts, University of Denver

**WOMEN IN MUSIC SYMPOSIUM**

Presenter and schedule information coming soon and will be posted at [www.womeninmusicdenver.org](http://www.womeninmusicdenver.org).



**Sunday, October 8, 2017:**

2:30p.m.

June Swaner Gates Concert Hall, Newman Center for Performing Arts, University of Denver

**CHALLENGING EXPECTATIONS**

Wes Kenney, Music Director and YAO Conductor  
Carolyn Kunicki, horn

Hilary Tann: *Open Field*

Mozart: *Horn Concerto No. 4*

Shostakovich: *Symphony No. 5*

**About Denver Young Artists Orchestra:** Colorado's premier youth symphony, the Denver Young Artists Orchestra's mission is to provide the finest possible youth orchestra programs, inspiring and educating young musicians through the performance of great works of music, and offering valuable cultural opportunities to the community. To find out more, visit <http://www.dyao.org>

**ADDITIONAL CONTACTS:**

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For high-resolution, downloadable images of the Denver Young Artists Orchestra, visit <http://www.dyao.org/gallery/>

The Women in Music Symposium is made possible through grants from Denver's Imagine 2020, a collective cultural plan and vision for Denver and Innovative Collaboration, a discretionary fund of the Scientific and Cultural Facilities District (SCFD).

**TICKETS:**

Tickets are available online at [www.womeninmusicdenver.org](http://www.womeninmusicdenver.org) and by phone at 303.433.2420

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