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ASSOCIATION OF CALIFORNIA
SYMPHONY ORCHESTRAS

Empowering Our Music Community

NATALIA STANEVA RECEIVES ACSO'S EXECUTIVE LEADERSHIP AWARD

Thursday, July 13, 2023 – The Association of California Symphony Orchestras (ACSO) is pleased to announce that **Natalia Staneva**, Executive Director of New West Symphony, is the recipient of its 2023 Executive Leadership Award.

The ACSO Executive Leadership Award recognizes the chief executive officer, executive director, or managing director of an ACSO member organization for extraordinary leadership in the classical music field by advancing the mission of their organization, creating a vision that inspires others, creating strategies to overcome challenges, and uniting a team to meet the demands of the changing world of classical music performance.

"[Natalia] successfully led the organization through strategic planning and the growth of the organization from \$1,800,000 to \$2,500,000. She is an effective crisis manager who led us through the pandemic and a period of adversity when we had to cancel and reschedule concerts," said New West Symphony's Board Chair, Paul Finkel. "I don't believe I'm overstating the consensus opinion of those involved with the organization that Natalia has been an essential driving force behind the organization's success."

ACSO Executive Director Sarah Weber said, "We created this award because oftentimes the work of an orchestra CEO is the last to be recognized. In our field, CEOs spend their time supporting their board members, mentoring and coaching their staff, shining the spotlight on their music director, or teaching aspiring young musicians. They lift up everyone before themselves. But they truly provide the strong backbone and influence the internal culture of any successful orchestra. Natalia certainly does for New West Symphony, and she is truly deserving of this recognition."

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The New West Symphony is an esteemed performing arts organization that attracts diverse, capacity audiences to experience and celebrate the transformative power of live symphonic music in Ventura and Los Angeles counties. Led by visionary Music Director Maestro Michael Christie, it serves as a growing hub for music appreciation and education sustained by robust financial support and community resources. www.newwestsymphony.org

The Association of California Symphony Orchestras (ACSO), founded in 1969, is a member service organization representing 120 classical music organizations and their 2,000 board and staff in its network. ACSO's members are comprised of professional, academic, youth, and community-based orchestras, choruses, and festivals in California and the western region. ACSO's annual awards program recognizes remarkable individuals and organizations for their meaningful contributions to the orchestra field. To read about all our 2023 award winners, click [here](http://www.acso.org). www.acso.org