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**ZEN GLICK RECEIVES ACSO'S INAUGURAL YOUNG MUSICIAN LEADERSHIP AWARD**

Thursday, July 13, 2023 – The Association of California Symphony Orchestras (ACSO) announced today that Pasadena High School student **Zen Glick** is the recipient of its 2023 Young Musician Leadership Award, which comes with an honoraria and mentorship opportunity.

Launched this year, ACSO's Young Musician Leadership Award goes to a high school or college student who plays an instrument in a music ensemble and shows remarkable potential to become a future leader in the performing arts field. This award recognizes a young musician who has gone above and beyond in service to their orchestra, school, peer group, or community.

"Zen Glick is a remarkable student, one that I've had the pleasure of knowing since he joined our youth orchestra in the 5th grade," said Alexander Chu, Director of Education & Community Engagement, Pasadena Symphony & POPS, who nominated Zen for the award. "Now a senior at Pasadena High School, Zen continues to impress me with his maturity and responsibility, his ability to work well with others, but most importantly his positive attitude, especially for an individual who has overcome so many obstacles starting at a young age. He has demonstrated countless times over the years, not only during his time in Pasadena Youth Symphony Orchestra (PYSO), but through his personal life with community efforts, that he is a true leader and an inspiration to others."

After surviving a lifetime of serious health challenges, Zen was inspired to live life fully and give back, raising nearly \$10,000 for cancer research. He also raised joy and gratitude along the way, taking his friends from orchestra to play at Children's Hospital Los Angeles and all around his hometown of Sierra Madre. He gave the gift of music to those who needed joy and distraction and to thank the tireless doctors, nurses, and researchers who helped him, and the children like him. For all these efforts, Zen was honored with a Leadership Award by the Pasadena Unified School District Board of Education in September 2022.

Dr. M. Anne Rardin, Orchestra Director at Pasadena High School, said, "In my 30+ years of teaching, I have never met a young man who took more initiative to make a difference in the lives of others. I know that he will be highly successful in college, as well as continue to contribute to the arts and his community."

Over the seven years Zen has played in the PYSO, he volunteered to usher at countless Pasadena Symphony concerts and acted as a Symphony ambassador, offered to play in student community quartets, and helped mentor younger students in beginning ensembles. Last summer, Zen was given the honor of conducting the National Anthem at a Pasadena POPS concert. In recognition of his service to PYSO, he was granted a scholarship for its 2022 tour to perform at Carnegie Hall. Zen also inspired the Pasadena Symphony and POPS, to create a donation campaign that centered on his journey in PYSO and the impact it has on him as a way to inspire investment in and value of music education in others.

ACSO Executive Director Sarah Weber said "Through this award, ACSO seeks to promote a more intentional pathway into the field of arts administration by recognizing student musicians who show strong leadership potential. Zen clearly understands the healing and community-building power of music and seeks to make it available and accessible to those that need it most. He is already doing the work of an arts leader and we can't wait to see where his path in music and in life takes him."

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The mission of the Pasadena Symphony and POPS is to provide musical concerts of the highest quality ranging from orchestral performances to world-renowned artists in recital, and to provide the broadest access to youth education programs and the performing arts through community engagement and digital innovation.

www.pasadenasympphony-pops.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](#). www.acso.org