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ASSOCIATION OF CALIFORNIA
SYMPHONY ORCHESTRAS

Empowering Our Music Community

PAUL SEVERTSON RECEIVES ACSO'S MOST VALUABLE PLAYER VOLUNTEER AWARD

Thursday, June 20, 2024 – The Association of California Symphony Orchestras (ACSO) is pleased to announce that **Paul Severtson**, Development Committee Chair of the San Luis Obispo Symphony, is a recipient of the 2024 Most Valuable Player (MVP) Volunteer Award that will be presented to him at ACSO's 2024 Annual Conference in San Francisco from July 25-27.

ACSO launched the MVP Volunteer Award in 1996 to recognize exemplary volunteers, volunteer projects, and volunteer organizations and to thank a few of the hundreds of dedicated, hardworking, and committed volunteers that orchestras and music organizations depend on every day.

Severtson was nominated by Rachel Sabalboro, Executive Director of the San Luis Obispo Symphony for his work to raise funds for the orchestra, including leadership of the most recent gala. He was praised for his efforts to learn new software, solicit and organize silent and live auctions and a raffle, and sell tickets for the gala, which successfully raised \$100,000 for the symphony.

"Paul Severtson is an invaluable volunteer for the San Luis Obispo Symphony. He gives his time, experience in nonprofit fundraising, and knowledge of the community, generously," said Sabalboro. "By nature, Paul is a volunteer. He steps up when he sees a need and is greatly appreciated for his quiet patience and ability to listen. Through the years, he has served on various committees, including development and the search for a new music director. Paul has had a major musical impact on the orchestra, and community, with his visible presence in the orchestra for thirty years. He is beloved."

ACSO Executive Director Sarah Weber said, "During good times and bad, orchestras depend on volunteers to help with almost every aspect of their operations. They are working behind the scenes and out in front as ambassadors to make sure that their orchestra is strong and active in the performance hall and in the community. Paul is an outstanding example of how critical volunteers are to keeping our orchestras vital and resilient."

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Founded in 1954 (later incorporated in 1961), The mission of the San Luis Obispo Symphony is to support an outstanding community orchestra, to foster symphonic and chamber music education, and to contribute to the cultural and economic vitality of the central coast community.

www.slosymphony.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. To read about all our 2023 award winners, click [here](http://www.acso.org). www.acso.org