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ASSOCIATION OF CALIFORNIA
SYMPHONY ORCHESTRAS

Empowering Our Music Community

IRIS RODRIGUEZ RECEIVES ACSO'S YOUNG MUSICIAN LEADERSHIP AWARD

Thursday, June 20, 2024 – The Association of California Symphony Orchestras (ACSO) announced today that San Diego Youth Symphony (SDYS) musician (flute, piccolo, bassoon) and Mission Bay High School senior **Iris Rodriguez** is the recipient of the 2024 Young Musician Leadership Award, which comes with an honoraria and mentorship opportunity and will be presented at ACSO's 2024 Annual Conference in San Francisco from July 25-27.

Launched last year, ACSO's Young Musician Leadership Award goes to a middle school, 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.

Rodriguez was nominated by Sameer Patel, Artistic Director of San Diego Youth Symphony, for her extraordinary efforts mentoring younger and beginning musicians to help them with note and rhythm reading. She also provides assistance to the orchestra conductors and shows promise as a conductor in her own right, and spearheads service projects and social events to help recruit new SDYS musicians. Iris was also praised for her work as a student leader of the Meraki Concert Series at her high school, a monthly jazz series that is run by students to give them real-world experience in the music industry.

"Iris is a member of the SDYS Youth Leadership Council and has played an active role in the mentorship of our younger ensembles, community building among students in our program, and service beyond our walls," said Patel. "She leaps at any opportunity to create a better musical ecosystem, whether through participation in her school program, performing and conducting with community ensembles, and helping young people develop their musical skills. She shows up weekly with a desire to serve and make music with everyone and has been a wonderful example for our younger students."

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. Iris clearly understands the community-building power of music for young people and seeks to make it available and accessible to those that need it most. She is already doing the work of an arts leader and we can't wait to see where her path in music and in life takes her."

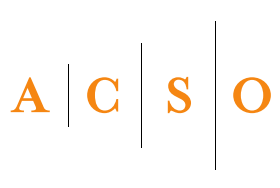
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San Diego Youth Symphony's goal is to create a joyful, inclusive and challenging learning environment for young people from all backgrounds and skill levels. www.keynote-music.org/sdys

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

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organizations for their meaningful contributions to the orchestra field. To read about all our 2024 award winners, click [here](https://www.acso.org). www.acso.org