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## PRESS RELEASE

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### NEW YORK YOUTH SYMPHONY APPOINTS JOSHUA GERSEN AS MUSIC DIRECTOR OF THE ORCHESTRA STARTING 2012/2013 SEASON

**Date: December 6, 2011**

New York, NY...Leslie Garfield, Chair, and Slade Mills, President of the New York Youth Symphony (NYYS), announced today that Joshua (JD) Gersen will lead the orchestra into its 50<sup>th</sup> season as newly appointed Music Director. Mr. Gersen, currently serving as Conducting Fellow of the New World Symphony, will succeed Ryan McAdams, who is currently in his fifth year with the NYYS.



In making the announcement on behalf of the Search Committee and the entire Board, Messrs. Garfield and Mills said, "We are delighted that Mr. Gersen will join our organization as our sixteenth Music Director. He comes to us at this exciting moment in our history with an impressive resume of accomplishments in his early career. Joshua is joining an illustrious roster of New York Youth Symphony Music Directors, including Leonard Slatkin, David Alan Miller, Miguel Harth-Bedoya, Mischa Santora, Paul Haas, and of course our esteemed present leader, Ryan McAdams."

On behalf of the Search Committee, NYYS Executive Director Shauna Quill noted that "Joshua Gersen's passionate commitment to the development of young artists was a key factor in the Committee's decision to invite Mr. Gersen to be our next Music Director. The orchestra musicians were deeply impressed with Mr. Gersen's technical command of the podium, as well as his knowledge of classic repertoire and enthusiasm for conducting contemporary music."

Mr. Gersen said, "As someone who grew up not far from New York City, I am thrilled about becoming the new Music Director of this wonderful orchestra. Strong youth orchestra programs like the NYYS play such a vital role in developing and enriching the lives of their young

musicians, profoundly impacting their future and the future of the music world itself. As the New York Youth Symphony reaches its 50<sup>th</sup> year, I wish to celebrate its rich past while ushering in a new era that will build upon its legacy."

Mr. Gersen made his conducting debut at age 11 with the Greater Bridgeport Youth Orchestra in Bridgeport, CT, and his professional conducting debut 5 years later when he led the Greater Bridgeport Symphony in a performance of his own composition, A Symphonic Movement. He is currently the John S. and James L. Knight Foundation Conducting Fellow of the New World Symphony, where he serves as the assistant conductor to the symphony's Artistic Director Michael Tilson Thomas. He will continue in the position through the 2012/2013 season. A graduate of New England Conservatory and the Curtis Institute of Music, he has studied conducting with Otto-Werner Mueller and Gustav Meier, and participated in master classes with internationally renowned conductors, including Michael Tilson Thomas, Christoph Eschenbach, Alan Gilbert, and Simon Rattle.

Joshua has attended numerous conducting workshops and summer festivals, including the Conductors Guild Workshop at the Cabrillo Festival of Contemporary Music in the summer of 2009, led by Marin Alsop. Most recently he attended the American Academy of Conducting at the Aspen Music Festival in the summers of 2010 and 2011, where he worked such distinguished conductors as Larry Rachleff, Hugh Wolff, and Robert Spano. As a result of winning the 2011 Aspen Conducting Prize, he will serve as Assistant Conductor for the Aspen Music Festival for the 2012 season.

Soon to celebrate its 50th consecutive season in Carnegie Hall, the New York Youth Symphony is internationally recognized for its award-winning and innovative educational programs for talented young musicians. Founded in 1963 as an orchestra to showcase the metropolitan area's most gifted musicians, ages 12-22, its programs have since grown to include Chamber Music groups, Jazz Band, Making Score composition program, and the commissioning program *First Music*. A leader among youth orchestras, the New York Youth Symphony offers sophisticated programs to enthusiastic audiences in a season that extends from September through May. For more information about the New York Youth Symphony visit our website at <http://www.nyys.org>.

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