



PRESS RELEASE

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Barry Goldberg, Executive Director for 28 Years, Announces Impending Retirement.

Barry Goldberg, the Executive Director of New York Youth Symphony, Inc., an organization which has won numerous awards for its work with young musicians, announced plans for his retirement at the close of the 2010-11 season, August 31, 2011. Board Chair **Leslie J. Garfield** made the official announcement, saying “Barry has been an exemplary executive director; we could not have asked for more. We are extremely disappointed to lose him, but we wish him well on his retirement. If we were a sports organization rather than a musical one, we would retire his number.”



Barry Goldberg

Mr. Goldberg has overseen widening operations of the award-winning, tuition-free program for musicians, ages 12 to 22, since joining as the sole manager in April, 1983, when there was only an orchestra program for approximately 85 musicians. Since that time, the orchestra has grown to 115-125 musicians, and programs have been added in apprentice conducting, chamber music, jazz, and composition. Currently, there are 225 musicians in all the programs, with 10,000 people attending more than 20 performances seasonally.

Finances, too, have expanded from the \$75,000 budget in 1983 to the current \$1 million. A campaign under Mr. Goldberg’s watch to add to endowment and reserve funds has catapulted from \$35,000 when he joined to \$3.6 million today. A goal remains in place to reach \$4 million before his departure.

“Each of these programs is my child,” he said, referring to the expanded offerings. “I have had fun working with some extraordinary talents who have directed the myriad offerings. And there are, of course, the exceptional young conductors who got their starts here.” The current NYYS conductor, Ryan McAdams, is the recent winner of the Solti Prize for Emerging Conductors.

Mr. Goldberg takes great pride in his creation, along with David Alan Miller, of the First Music series of commissions. “Composers are the reason any of us are here,” he said, “so you can understand why I feel particularly blessed to have had a part in commissioning 119 young Americans to write music for our programs.” Many composers who have had their works premièred by the New York Youth Symphony have since made remarkable careers, including two who have won the Pulitzer Prize, **David Lang** and **Aaron Jay Kernis**.

A native of Memphis, Mr. Goldberg moved to New York City in 1980, seeking a career in arts management. Before coming to the New York Youth Symphony, he worked at the American Council for the Arts, the Institute for Architecture and Urban Studies (working closely there with Philip Johnson), and the New York State Council on the Arts, where he served as assistant to its late chairman, Kitty Carlisle Hart. “At first, I didn’t want the job at the New York Youth Symphony (he was responsible for changing the organization’s name from Youth Symphony Orchestra of New York), but I was drawn in as a guest at an orchestra rehearsal. The memory of watching human growth so quickly and at close range,” he said, “still gives me goose pimples.”

A search committee has been established to identify Mr. Goldberg’s successor.

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