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New York Youth Symphony Executive Director Shauna Quill to Step Down June 30, 2020



New York, NY - The **New York Youth Symphony (NYYS)** has announced that **Shauna Quill** will step down as executive director of the organization following the close of the 2019-2020 concert season on June 30, 2020. Quill has led the NYYS since 2011. She will be leaving to explore new opportunities, and the organization is grateful for her partnership in ensuring an effective leadership transition. The NYYS Board of Trustees has begun the search for Quill's replacement, working with the **Catherine French Group**, and intends to fill the position before her departure.

On behalf of the NYYS Board of Trustees, Board President **William Kapell** said, "Shauna has been a driving force in making the New York Youth Symphony the best organization it can be for its many constituents — its students, audiences, parents, music directors, staff, and trustees. We greatly appreciate her many successes at the helm of NYYS over the past nine years."

Under Quill's leadership, the NYYS has expanded its outreach into the community through artistic partnerships with organizations including the Harmony Program, Youth Orchestra of St. Luke's, Orpheus Ensemble, DeCoda and Harlem School for the Arts, among others; initiated the organization's first in-school residency in the South Bronx and created the new Musical Theater Composition program; embarked on its first-ever international tours to Argentina (2015), Brazil (2016), and Spain (2019); expanded the profile of the First Music commissioning program through a partnership with Interlochen Center for the Arts; and created *Pipeline to Success*, which includes over \$50K in scholarships and fellowships to students from underserved communities. She spearheaded searches for artistic directors for the orchestra, jazz, musical theater, and First Music programs, bringing in award-winning artists to the organization. Quill also secured the NYYS's financial future by completing the organization's endowment campaign, spearheading the highest grossing special events in NYYS history, and

obtaining first-time grants from organizations including the Ford Foundation and New York State Council on the Arts. During her tenure, she led marketing and public relations efforts which included performances on *CBS Sunday Morning*, *Jimmy Kimmel Live!*, the Public Theater's Public Works production of *Odyssey* in Central Park, and more.

Of her time at NYYS, Quill said, "It has been my honor and privilege to lead the New York Youth Symphony. Working with such dedicated students, families, artistic directors, trustees, and staff, has made the nine seasons extremely fulfilling. I leave knowing that the relationships I formed here will last a lifetime and that my successor will take them to even greater heights."

Shauna Quill was previously Executive Director of the University of Chicago Presents, the University's professional presenting series. She also held senior leadership positions at arts organizations including the Aspen Music Festival and School, La Jolla Music Society, and the Herbert Breslin Agency, and managed her own consulting business.

The **New York Youth Symphony** educates and inspires young musicians through its Orchestra, Jazz, Chamber Music, Composition, Musical Theater Composition, Apprentice Conducting, and First Music commissioning programs. The 2019-2020 season includes seven world premieres of new works commissioned through the First Music program, composed for the Orchestra, Jazz, and Chamber Music ensembles.

Founded in 1963, the NYYS is internationally recognized for its award-winning and innovative educational programs for talented young musicians. As the premier independent music education organization for ensemble training in the New York metropolitan area, the NYYS has provided over 6,000 music students unparalleled opportunities to perform at world-class venues including Carnegie Hall, Jazz at Lincoln Center, National Sawdust, Joe's Pub, and TheTimesCenter, and to study with world-renowned artists. Beyond the instruction from accomplished musicians, students gain valuable life skills — commitment, discipline, focus, collaboration — and friendships that last a lifetime.

The NYYS is committed to partnering with traditionally underrepresented communities to create pathways for young people to find their way to music, and to a life in music. These community partnerships go beyond the stage to in-school residencies, free community concerts, and family involvement, and make music accessible to a wider and more diverse audience. The NYYS partners with organizations including the Harmony Program, Harlem School for the Arts, SongSpace, Maestra, the Youth Orchestra of St. Luke's, Interlochen Arts Academy, BMI and ASCAP. It offers fellowships to its current students and alumni/ae through the Vargas-Vetter/Ukena, Van Lier, and Orpheus Arts Management programs.

For more information, please visit www.nyys.org.

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