



THE SANTA FE SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA & CHORUS AND
SANTA FE YOUTH SYMPHONY ASSOCIATION ANNOUNCE PLANS TO MERGE!

March 15, 2024, Santa Fe, NM—The Santa Fe Symphony Orchestra & Chorus (The Symphony) and the Santa Fe Youth Symphony Association (SFYSA) announced that they have signed a Merger Plan outlining a framework for the transformative fusion of the two New Mexico non-profit groups. This collaboration marks a pivotal moment, as two esteemed organizations unite to pool their talents and resources, further building on decades-long foundations to create a powerhouse organization dedicated to enriching the cultural landscape of our vibrant Santa Fe community. This merger will amplify the musical experience for our community and enhance the organizations' ability to engage and inspire music lovers of all ages. Together, The Symphony and its new education arm will enrich the lives of our community by fostering a more robust environment for music education and performance, ensure a brighter future for the next generation of musicians, give opportunity by offering professional growth for Santa Fe music educators, and so much more.



The Symphony and SFYSA approach this collaboration from positions of strength and stability. Executives at both organizations are confident that this is the right time and place for the two groups to come together. In its 40th Anniversary Season, The Symphony has experienced record-setting ticket sales, sold-out performances, and strong support from community members. SFYSA, now in its 30th year, has grown steadily and serves 300 students weekly through a wide range of music education programs and services.



“The Symphony and the Santa Fe Youth Symphony are a perfect fit. We’ve collaborated for a number of years on joint performances and programs, and our two organizations work well together. We know that the skills and experiences of each of our staff members enhance one another. And many of our orchestral and choral musicians are also educators, and needless to say *thrilled* about this merger. The Symphony and the Santa Fe Youth Symphony are strong separately, but we’ll be even stronger together.”

—Emma Scherer, Executive Director for The Symphony

SFYSA will relocate offices to join The Symphony and maintain its commitment to education access for aspiring young musicians, community engagement, and performance excellence through its award-winning Jazz, Mariachi, Chamber Music, and Orchestra projects.



“I am thrilled about the upcoming merge with The Symphony. This collaboration represents a union of two powerful entities, each bringing its own strengths and resources to the table. Together, we’ll be able to serve a larger community, enriching the artistic landscape of Santa Fe and beyond. This integration marks a significant step forward in our collective mission to foster a love and appreciation for music in the hearts of people of all ages. The possibilities are endless, and I am confident that, united, we will reach even greater heights.”

—Callie O’Buckley, Executive Director of SFYSA

Combined, these two esteemed organizations can become a greater community resource and achieve more, collaboratively, than either group could accomplish independently.



The President of The Symphony's Board of Directors, Perry C. Andrews, III, shared that "Magical moments tend to happen in our City Different and this merger of two of Northern New Mexico's most well respected and fiscally sound performing arts organizations is certainly one of those moments. On behalf of The Symphony's entire Board of Directors, we feel certain that the combined resources of both of the underlying organizations—artistic, staffing, leadership, and financial—will position your Santa Fe Symphony Orchestra & Chorus for both near- and long-term growth in the future. We look forward to continuing our mission of presenting professional, world-class performances to the greater Santa Fe community, while expanding our focus on music education and training for hundreds of students Santa Fe Public Schools and local Pueblos. This combining of resources is a 'win-win' for our local musicians, all New Mexico residents, Santa Fe's youth, our entire community, and beyond."



Two Musical Legacies, One Shared Vision.



"This merger is so exciting from a music and cultural perspective. It's wonderful to watch two great organizations join hands in the Land of Enchantment and continue to provide a variety of music to our community. The Santa Fe Youth Symphony Association has steadily continued to develop over 30 years and this is such a pinnacle of artistic enrichment and mentorship for our youth orchestra, chamber music, jazz, and mariachi students."

—Lissa Garcia Lucht, SFYSA's Board Chair

The fusion of The Symphony and SFYSA will enable both organizations to engage in valuable educational and programming exchanges, deepen community engagement efforts, and maximize the impact of each administrative area. It will strengthen The Symphony's core mission to provide world-class programming to Santa Fe and unite the incredible talents of both organizations for a grand celebration of musical excellence.

"We expect that this merger will allow for significant sharing of resources, and will have a positive effect on our staff, musicians, teachers, and audiences. We also believe that the combined organization will increase opportunities to secure funding from a wider range of supporters and entities. We invite all Santa Feans and all music-lovers to learn more about The Symphony, our community and education programs, and this exciting merger," said Emma Scherer.

Together, the new, joint organization is poised to elevate music and create an enduring legacy for generations to come.



“I’m thrilled that The Symphony and the Santa Fe Youth Symphony are joining forces. It’s the kind of smart merger you love to see, where the result can be even greater than the sum of its parts. Each organization on its own has proven to be innovative and resourceful, and with their energetic leadership and conscientious planning, they’re laying the groundwork for a sustainable and expansive future that even better serves our community and visitors.”

—Chelsey Johnson, Director of Arts & Culture, City of Santa Fe.

The merger of the two organizations is expected to take effect on **July 1, 2024**. The Symphony invites members of the arts and business communities to share in its excitement as it embarks on this musical journey together with the Santa Fe Youth Symphony Association. Santa Fe community members are invited to learn more about the merger at santafesymphony.org/merger, attend our **Town Hall Q&A, March 17, 2:30 PM** at the Lensic, or email merger@santafesymphony.org with questions.



Town Hall Q&A | Sunday, March 17, 2:30 PM

Lensic Performing Arts Center, 211 W. San Francisco Street, Santa Fe, NM 87501

santafesymphony.org    

FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THIS ANNOUNCEMENT, PLEASE CONTACT*

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**Please do not publish this information.*