



The Santa Fe Symphony Orchestra & Chorus Announces Leadership Transition Guillermo Figueroa to transition to Music Director Laureate in June 2026

July 10, 2025, Santa Fe, NM– The Santa Fe Symphony Orchestra & Chorus today announced that Guillermo Figueroa, its longtime conductor, has extended his current contract through the 2026-2027 Season, after which he will transition to Music Director Laureate for 2027-2028 and 2028-2029 Seasons.

Appointed in 2016, Figueroa has led The Santa Fe Symphony Orchestra & Chorus through a period of unprecedented growth, innovation, and community engagement. Under his leadership, the institution has expanded its programs, deepened its impact, and strengthened its role as a vital cultural and civic anchor in the region.

“We are deeply grateful for Guillermo Figueroa’s 10 years of visionary leadership,” said Perry C. Andrews III, Board President. “His many contributions have positioned The Santa Fe Symphony Orchestra & Chorus for a strong future, and we look forward to honoring those contributions during the coming seasons. We are fully committed to ensuring a thoughtful, respectful transition process as Maestro Figueroa takes on this new role within the organization.”

“Maestro Figueroa has made an incredible, lasting impact on The Santa Fe Symphony,” said Executive Director Emma Scherer. “We are excited to celebrate his tenure and transition to our Music Director Laureate, and invite our audience to celebrate all that has been achieved in the past ten years under his leadership. As we embark on our search for a new Music Director, we will be positioned to continue to grow as a model for regional orchestras across the country, reinforcing our commitment to cooperative governance and community engagement. We are excited for Maestro Figueroa and The Santa Fe Symphony’s future.”

Over the next year, Figueroa will work closely with the Board and senior leadership to maintain momentum on key initiatives and support a comprehensive transition process. The Board will launch a national search in the coming months to identify his successor.

“Leading The Santa Fe Symphony has been the honor of my professional life,” said Figueroa. “I am so proud of our artistic accomplishments over my time here. We have brought exceptional music to our audience year after year, with sold-out concerts and increased community outreach and support. My new chapter with The Symphony comes at a perfect time as I expand my

reach, with conducting and performing opportunities in new venues. As I look ahead, I do so with immense pride in what we've accomplished together and full confidence in the institution's bright future. I am excited and honored to continue as Music Director Laureate with The Santa Fe Symphony."

During the 2026-2027 Season, The Santa Fe Symphony Orchestra & Chorus will host a series of events honoring Figueroa's legacy and engaging the community in shaping the future of the organization.

Tickets are on sale now for The Symphony's 2025-2026 season. They can be purchased online at santafesymphony.org or by phone at 505.983.1414.

About The Santa Fe Symphony Orchestra & Chorus

The Santa Fe Symphony Orchestra & Chorus is dedicated to entertaining, educating, and engaging our community. Founded in 1984, The Symphony is one of the oldest collaboratively-operated orchestras in the United States. A group of dedicated musicians and music-lovers, led by Founder Greg Heltman, made the bold decision to establish a professional symphony orchestra in Santa Fe, founded with a model of cooperative governance. To this day, the musicians make up 25% of their Board, sit on committees, occupy staff roles, and maintain responsibility for the artistic vision and leadership of the organization. From thrilling classics to spirited pops presentations, The Symphony produces a wide array of concerts that excite and engage audiences of all ages. The SFS performs a regular subscription series at the 800-seat Lensic Performing Arts Center and free choral-orchestral concerts at the Cathedral Basilica and across the region. The Symphony is recognized as a vital, community-focused musical organization. The SFS is the only fully professional, full-sized symphony in Santa Fe, and employs over a hundred New Mexican orchestral and choral musicians each season. Santa Fe attracts thousands of arts and culture tourists each year – patrons who are interested in the arts, humanities, and history of Santa Fe. The Symphony is a crown jewel of New Mexico's performing arts landscape. In 2024, SFS merged with the Santa Fe Youth Symphony Association (SFYSA), offering high-quality music education for 300+ children in Northern New Mexico. Together, SFS has flourished, growing education offerings for people of all ages and integrating the services and mission of The Symphony more fully with our community. This was not the first merger in its history. In 1986, The Symphony merged with the Chorus of Santa Fe, bringing together two esteemed organizations to even more opportunities for great music in our community. The Symphony's reach includes Santa Fe, Northern New Mexico, and beyond. It offers orchestral and choral concerts of the highest professional quality as well as comprehensive education programs for children and families. It believes a city's symphony should be a vital community resource and connect musicians, audiences, students, and families with each other. For more information, santafesymphony.org.

FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THIS ANNOUNCEMENT, PLEASE CONTACT*

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