

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – July 24, 2008 – Walnut Creek, CA

## The California Symphony to host 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Conference of the Association of California Symphony Orchestras in Walnut Creek

On August 7 – 9, 2008, the California Symphony will host the 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Conference of the Association of California Symphony Orchestras in Walnut Creek, with representatives from 150 orchestras from around the state registered to attend. Founded in 1969, ACSO is the largest state orchestra association in the U.S., with 400 individuals and organizations from California and other states. This will be the first time the conference has been located outside San Francisco, when visiting the Bay Area.

This year's action-packed schedule will include three live performances by East Bay companies: a Musicales of chamber works written by three California Symphony Young American Composers-in-Residence: Mason Bates, Pierre Jalbert, and Chris Theofanidis, to be presented by CSO music director Barry Jekowsky; opening night of Festival Opera's *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, directed by Oakland East Bay Symphony music director Michael Morgan; and the California Shakespeare Theater production of *Uncle Vanya*. (Bates, Jalbert and Theofanidis will also be featured on the panel, "Conversations with the New Music Makers," to be moderated by Jekowsky.)

The annual gathering of music directors and orchestra management staff will feature guest speakers Marie Gallo, one of California's leading philanthropists; composer Nathaniel Stookey; David Hyslop, the former executive officer of three of the nation's top symphonies; former San Francisco Symphony executive director Peter Pastreich; and arts management consultant Jan Masaoka. This year's event will include a full schedule of seminars designed to provide performing arts organizations with the latest tools to thrive and evolve while surviving the current economic crisis.

"The California Symphony is proud to host this banner conference honoring four decades of service by ASCO, which has quietly played a critical role in California's prominence in the classical

world. Without this organization and its many resources, there's no doubt that many regional and community orchestras would be missing from our cultural landscape today," says CSO's executive director Stacey Street, who is also chairing this year's event.

**The conference will take place at the Embassy Suites and Renaissance ClubSport Hotels in Walnut Creek. For a complete schedule, visit [www.acso.org](http://www.acso.org).**

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