



NEWS RELEASE

Wichita Symphony Orchestra

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Contact: Nina Longhofer

Marketing & Data Analytics Manager

Phone: (316) 267-5259, ext. 112

Email: nlonghofer@wso.org

**WICHITA SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA ANNOUNCES RESIGNATION OF YOUTH SYMPHONY
CONDUCTOR**

New Conductor Search to Commence in the Fall

(Wichita, KS) The Wichita Symphony Orchestra announces the resignation of Youth Symphony Conductor and Youth Orchestras Program Director Dr. Mark Laycock. Dr. Laycock's final performance with the Youth Symphony took place at Century II Concert Hall on Saturday, March 2, 2024 during the Youth Orchestras Spring Concert.

Dr. Laycock served as conductor of the Youth Symphony for nine years, initiating performances of contemporary music, full-length symphonies, and other significant works. During his tenure as Youth Symphony conductor, he led an exchange with the Colorado Springs Youth Symphony – the first exchange of its kind in the Wichita Symphony's history. In 2019, he led the Youth Symphony in a world premiere of *Granite Ocean*, written by Youth Symphony alum and film and tv composer Logan Nelson, and conducted the Youth Symphony in a performance at the Kansas Music Educators Association In-Service Workshop.

Dr. Mark Laycock is a Professor of Music at Wichita State University, where he holds the Ann Walenta Faculty of Distinction Endowed Professorship. He has been recognized with the WSU Excellence in Creative Activity Award and the College of Fine Arts Excellence in Teaching Award. He serves as Director of Orchestras and Coordinator of Strings. Dr. Laycock is a member of the Board of Directors of the Midwest International Band and Orchestra Clinic; he serves as Chair of Orchestra Activities.

The Wichita Symphony is grateful to Dr. Laycock for his leadership of the Youth Orchestras program for the last nine years. The Symphony will commence a search for a new Youth Symphony Conductor in the fall.

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