

TACOMA SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

SARAH IOANNIDES, MUSIC DIRECTOR

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Sarah Ioannides to conduct the University of Puget Sound Symphony Orchestra

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TACOMA, WA – Sarah Ioannides, the new music director at Tacoma Symphony Orchestra (TSO), will raise her baton to lead the University of Puget Sound Symphony Orchestra at a free April 24 concert. Ioannides will be guest conductor at the place where the TSO had its start: the University of Puget Sound campus, where the orchestra grew under the leadership of Edward Seferian, professor of music and “Father of the TSO.” This is believed to be the first time a TSO music director has returned to the campus to conduct the college’s own student orchestra.

Ioannides will lead the university’s Symphony Orchestra

UPCOMING CONCERTS

Life, Luminous - Friday, Apr 10, 7 PM

Percussion on Parade - Sunday, Apr 19, 2 PM

Music Mixer - Saturday, May 9, 6 PM

The Planets - Saturday, May

in a 7:30 p.m. performance on Friday, April 24, in Schneebeck Concert Hall on campus. The program will span three centuries of music, including Bernstein's Overture to *Candide*, American composer Russell Peck's *The Upward Stream*, and Shostakovich's Symphony No. 5. Tenor saxophonist Brady McCowan, a winner of the UPS School of Music's 2014-2015 Concerto/Aria Competition, will be the featured soloist in *The Upward Stream*. Admission is free.

9, 7 PM

It was 1959 when Puget Sound's legendary professor of violin, Edward Seferian, first took charge of an amateur ensemble of Tacoma citizens and (as the university was then known) College of Puget Sound students. The campus-based troupe was called the CPS-Tacoma Symphony Orchestra. By the time Seferian stepped down as the orchestra's music director in 1994, he had transformed it into one of the finest community symphonies in the Northwest and a centerpiece of Tacoma's cultural life. Puget Sound, meanwhile developed its own student orchestra, and grew its music program into today's highly regarded School of Music.

"I am delighted to be conducting the University of Puget Sound Symphony Orchestra this spring," said Ioannides. "The Tacoma area is fortunate to have such a fine institution as Puget Sound, with students and faculty who hold to a very high level of quality and excellence.

“The program we selected is one that I would choose for a professional orchestra—a program that will showcase the students’ talents, as well as present a few exciting challenges along the way—and be thrilling for the audience, too!”

The Australian-born conductor, who grew up in the United Kingdom and came to the United States on a Fulbright Scholarship, is enthusiastic about growing ties with the Tacoma community. School of Music Director Keith Ward said Ioannides’ appointment with the TSO last July was serendipitously timed to allow this special performance, as Puget Sound is currently in the process of selecting a new orchestra director.

“We know Sarah’s deep connection to and profound belief in music education, and we celebrate the opportunity to bring her back to the roots of the Tacoma Symphony Orchestra during her first year,” he said.

Although this marks the first appearance of a TSO conductor on the Puget Sound stage since the Seferian era, the Orchestra and University have always maintained close ties. The university regularly invites TSO members as guest artists to direct master classes; while the TSO has historically drawn on Puget Sound staff, faculty, and students for its members and guest artists. Since 2013 the TSO has partnered with the university’s Community Music Department, along with Ted Brown Music, to perform the Mini Maestros

series of public children's concerts. In 2013 Puget Sound sponsored a TSO concert as part of the school's 125th anniversary celebrations, and continues to sponsor a concert annually on the TSO series.

University of Puget Sound Symphony Orchestra is made up of talented students from around the country, some of whom are music majors enrolled in the college's School of Music. Students audition to join the Symphony Orchestra, which performs several concerts each year. Many of its members also play in chamber groups or in ensembles that perform for college opera, musical, and theater productions.

CATEGORY: NEWS

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