



To: All Media
From: Rosemary Flores, Operations Manager (915) 532-3776
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EPSOA ANNOUNCES NEW EPSYOS MUSIC DIRECTOR
Dr. James O. Welsch joins EPSOA Family as Music Director and General Manager
of the El Paso Symphony Youth Orchestras
and Assistant Conductor of the El Paso Symphony Orchestra



El Paso, Texas – The El Paso Symphony Youth Orchestras (EPSYOs) Board of Trustees and the El Paso Symphony Orchestra (EPISO) Board of Trustees are pleased to announce the appointment of Dr. James O. Welsch as Music Director and General Manager of the EPSYOs and assistant conductor of EPISO. "We are very fortunate to have James Welsch be a part of our music community and to share his past musical experiences and ideas to grow our youth orchestra program and enrich the lives of future generations of musicians." -- Sue Woo, EPSYOs Chairman of the Board of Trustees.

Rock climbing and orchestra conducting pose similar challenges according to Welsch, new Music Director and General Manager of the EPSYOs. Both demand preparation and complete devotion to task.

"When I'm in front of an orchestra, I want all my focus and energy on those musicians," he says, "I've learned that the same concentration, attention to detail, and commitment to high goals that get a climber to the top can also help an orchestra reach the pinnacle of artistic performance."

A Florida native who earned a Doctor of Musical Arts in Orchestral Conducting in May from the University of Texas at Austin, Dr. Welsch begins his position September 1, 2016.

With a varied professional and educational background, Dr. Welsch will bring his experience as a college professor, conductor, and community arts organizer to the EPSYOs. He earned a Bachelor's of Music in Theory and Composition at Stetson University, DeLand, Florida, and a Master's of Music in Orchestral Conducting at Syracuse University, where he subsequently taught in the NASM-accredited

Setnor School of Music before pursuing a doctorate under the mentorship of Maestro Gerhardt Zimmermann. At Setnor, Dr. Welsch was named Faculty Member of the Year in 2007 – 2008, his first year of teaching.

While a graduate student and assistant professor at Setnor School of Music, he was assistant and cover conductor of the Syracuse Symphony Youth Orchestra; conductor of the New Directions Ensemble; founding conductor of the Setnor Brass Choir, and leader of other student ensembles. He also served as conductor for the Syracuse University Opera in fully-staged annual productions.

As Director of Music Ministries for a Syracuse suburban church, he organized performances of major works that involved inner-city singers and instrumentalists along with musicians from the church, community, and area high schools. He has been a guest conductor for Syracuse Symphony Orchestra, Syracuse Society for New Music, The Orlando Philharmonic, Syracuse University Wind Ensemble, Stetson University Symphonic Band, The Greater Syracuse Ecumenical Choir and Orchestra, and the Syracuse University Oratorio Society.

In Austin, Dr. Welsch conducted the Cedar Park High School musical “Ragtime,” and he was co-music director/conductor of “Oklahoma!” at Zilker Park Summer Theater. He was a faculty member and Chamber Orchestra conductor for the U. T. String Project, directed by Laurie Scott.

He is the recipient of artist grants for individual creative work and community arts projects. His compositions, original orchestrations and arrangements, have been performed in concerts and contests.

Looking forward to his position as a member of the creative team, Dr. Welsch says he is eager to begin the climb to a thrilling season with the EPSYOs and the EPSO. “My own musical passions have been fueled by generous, brilliant mentors through the years,” he says. “I am determined to honor them by giving my best to the talented young musicians of the EPSYOs.”

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