

American Composers Orchestra Names Lyndsay Werking Acting President



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New York, NY – **American Composers Orchestra** (ACO), praised for its “robust and diverse commissioning program” by *The New York Times*, has named **Lyndsay Werking** as its Acting President, effective immediately following current President Edward Yim’s departure on September 18. Werking joined ACO as Director of Development in 2017 and will continue that role concurrently. ACO has engaged executive search firm HC Smith Ltd to fill the position of President permanently.

“As Director of Development, Lyndsay has worked closely with Ed to ensure that ACO has the resources necessary to execute on its strategic plan,” said **Sameera Troesch**, chair of ACO’s Board of Directors. “Her strong leadership has also helped ACO to expand its network of dedicated supporters. We are fortunate to have her step into the Acting President role, for the continuity and expertise she can provide while the Board of Directors completes a search for Ed’s successor.”

ACO Artistic Director **Derek Bermel** adds, “In the last three years, Lyndsay has helped to capitalize capacity building and artistic initiatives at ACO. We are thrilled to have her lead the organization at this time of transition. Her understanding of ACO’s staff, artists, and community will ensure that we can keep advancing our mission and sustaining ACO’s core operations. I have great confidence that she will continue advancing ACO’s financial and strategic planning to build an even stronger platform for a new President.”

As ACO’s Director of Development, **Lyndsay Werking** has worked closely with the President and Board to lead fundraising and communications strategy for the organization’s three-year strategic plan. Accomplishments of the last three years include launching ACO’s Commission Club, securing capacity building grants from the Altman Foundation and Baisley Powell Elebash Fund, working to design ACO’s new website, and increasing individual giving by sixty percent.

Previously, Werking served as Managing Director of American Lyric Theater, a New York-based opera incubator that specializes in the development of new works. There, she was responsible for event production, financial oversight, and fundraising. With OPERA America's artistic services department, she led planning for the annual New Works Forum, administered multiple grant programs, and produced public events at the National Opera Center, and industry conferences with partner opera companies throughout North America.

A self-described "curious community connector," Werking's ultimate passion is performing arts, especially original works created by living artists. She believes in the power of art to examine social issues, spark conversation, and bridge gaps between people. She has served on grant panels for the MAP Fund, NYC Department of Cultural Affairs and worked with Merkin Concert Hall, and the Glimmerglass Festival.

Werking completed the Executive Program in Arts and Culture with National Arts Strategy and University of Pennsylvania, and holds a B.A. degree from Colgate University. Her writing has been published in *The New York Times*, and she volunteers with Patient Forward and PL + US (Paid Leave for the United States).

About American Composers Orchestra

American Composers Orchestra (ACO) has been dedicated to the creation, celebration, performance, and promotion of orchestral music by American composers since 1977. With commitment to diversity, disruption and discovery, ACO produces concerts, middle school through college composer education programs, and emerging composer development programs to foster a community of creators, audience, performers, collaborators, and funders.

ACO identifies and develops talent, performs established composers, champions those who are lesser-known, and increases regional, national, and international awareness of the infinite variety of American orchestral music, reflecting gender, ethnic, geographic, stylistic, and age diversity. To date, ACO has performed music by 800 American composers, including over 350 world premieres and newly commissioned works. ACO recordings are available on ARGO, CRI, ECM, Point, Phoenix USA, MusicMasters, Nonesuch, Tzadik, New World Records, InstantEncore.com, Amazon.com and iTunes.

EarShot – in collaboration with the League of American Orchestras, New Music USA and American Composers Forum – enables ACO and partner orchestras across the country to identify talented young composers. With guidance from ACO, partner orchestras – such as the Detroit Symphony, the Sarasota (FL) Orchestra, the Charlotte Symphony, and the Philadelphia Orchestra – undertake readings, residencies, performances and composer-development programs that speak directly to their communities and leverage local resources. ACO itself holds annual readings in New York with a multi-performance commission awarded to the most promising participant through the Composing a New Orchestra Audience platform.

For nearly two decades, ACO has brought composers and musical teaching artists into New York City public schools through Sonic Spark (formerly known as Music Factory). Sonic Spark aims to leverage composition as a platform for creativity, and creativity as a platform for achievement in all areas of student's life. Students in Brooklyn, Bronx, Manhattan and Queens, work directly with professional composers to create and perform original music. ACO also offers the intensive Compose Yourself! seminars, during which high school and college composers participate in hands-on composition classes, culminating in a performance of student compositions played by ACO's professional musicians.

More information about American Composers Orchestra and resources about American orchestral composers is available online at www.americancomposers.org.

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