

For Immediate Release | 02-22-16

Send Media and Material Requests to:
Katie Robertstad, Operations Manager
(213) 617-7707, info@ymf.org

YOUNG MUSICIANS FOUNDATION (YMF) CELEBRATES 61ST ANNIVERSARY GALA

March 2016 Gala Honors Alumnus Michele Zukovsky, Former Principal Clarinetist with the Los Angeles Philharmonic

LOS ANGELES, Calif. (February 5, 2016) – Young Musicians Foundation (YMF) is proud to celebrate its 61st outstanding year bringing exceptional classical music experiences to youth in greater Los Angeles when it hosts its 61st Anniversary Gala on Tuesday, March 8, 2016, with a 5:30 p.m. Reception and Dinner and an 8:00 p.m. Concert at the Wallis Annenberg Center for the Performing Arts (The Wallis) in Beverly Hills. Honorary Chairs **violinist Glenn Dicterow, former Concertmaster of the New York Philharmonic, and trumpeter Malcolm McNab** will join guests in a tribute to alumnus **Michele Zukovsky**, recipient of YMF's 2016 Magic Baton award in recognition of her 55 years as **Principal Clarinetist of the Los Angeles Philharmonic**, and her retirement last December. Emcee will be Jonathan Weedman, Senior Vice President of the Wells Fargo Foundation.

Following an elegant dinner in the Grand Hall, The Wallis' Bram Goldsmith Theater will resonate with a performance by the YMF Debut Orchestra. Dongni Xie, 2015 Debut Concerto Competition Second Place Winner, will play Gershwin's Piano Concerto in F under the direction of Yuga Cohler, Debut Orchestra Conductor. **Gala 2016: The Best of Both Worlds** is a tribute to four of the world's most cherished composers **Stravinsky, Gershwin, Copland and Bernstein**. **Selections will include: Bernstein's Overture to West Side Story, Stravinsky's Ebony Concerto featuring honoree Michele Zukovsky, and David K. Israel's Shoo Horns! (Variations on original Soft-shoe by Leonard Bernstein)**. A special treat is in store for the concert audience when **Guest Conductor Mary Cutler** leads the Debut Orchestra in the *Rodeo* classic "Hoe-down" by Copland. Cutler, a longtime supporter and advocate for YMF's exemplary programs in performance, vocal, general music and instrumental instruction, excels at voice and violin, and spent a lifetime collecting beautiful and unusual musical instruments now housed at Cal State L.A.

Danny Rothmuller, an accomplished cellist, and colleague of Michelle Zukovsky at the Los Angeles Philharmonic for 42 years, will present the Magic Baton award. Zukovsky joined the Los Angeles Philharmonic in 1961 when she was in her late teens and her last concert was December 20, 2015. She often played alongside her father, the late clarinetist Kalman Bloch, who was a former section principal. Through her mother, Frances, she is related to famed violin virtuoso Jascha Heifetz. Zukovsky played

under five L. A. Philharmonic music directors—including Zubin Mehta. One of the highlights of Zukovsky's career was soloist for the 1991 world premiere of John Williams' Clarinet Concerto.

“Young Musicians Foundation is thrilled to be honoring renowned clarinetist and YMF alumna, Michele Zukovsky at our 61st Anniversary Gala,” said Julia Gaskill, YMF Executive Director. “Bringing together YMF alumni, donors and our young musicians once again at the beautiful Wallis Annenberg Center for the Performing Arts will be delightful and memorable.”

The Gala will begin with a 5:30 p.m. reception and dinner in the Grand Hall and continue with a concert in the Bram Goldsmith Theater at The Wallis. Concert-only tickets are also available. For ticket information, please visit <http://www.ymf.org/2016-gala>.

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