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Young Musicians Foundation Names Walter Zoi New Executive Director

(Los Angeles, CA) - On Tuesday, March 8, the Young Musicians Foundation (YMF) announced that Walter Zoi will become its new executive director. The announcement was made at the annual YMF Gala Performance at the Wallis Annenberg Center for the Performing Arts. "After interviewing a remarkable group of talented candidates we are pleased to have chosen Walter Zoi," announced Margot Smith Thomas, chair of the YMF Board of Directors, "We are grateful for Julia Gaskill's leadership over the past five years and we are looking forward to working with Walter as we expand our impact and reach."

Walter Zoi is the founder and executive director of South Pasadena Music Center & Conservatory, an award-winning community-based institution recognized for the strength of its faculty and wide range of programs. He is also the founder and former artistic director of the popular South Pasadena Eclectic Music Festival. Prior to founding the conservatory, he served as director of communications at both the USC Thornton School of Music and California Institute of the Arts. "I'm honored to have been chosen to lead an institution with such a long and revered history of providing exceptional classical music experiences for youth," commented Mr. Zoi.

Since YMF's founding in 1955 by Sylvia Kunin, the foundation has provided one-of-a-kind opportunities for pre-professional young musicians to hone their skills and work with some of the finest artist/mentors in Southern California and beyond. Signature programs include the internationally acclaimed Debut Orchestra, under the direction of Yuga Cohler, a chamber music series, scholarships, concerto competition and composition workshops. Notable alumni include Michael Tilson Thomas, Glenn Dicterow, former concertmaster of the New York Philharmonic, Robert Chen, concertmaster of the Chicago Symphony, and dozens of members of the Los Angeles Philharmonic, and appear with virtually every major symphony orchestra and as featured performers on film soundtracks.

In the past two decades, YMF has diversified its focus by providing potentially life-changing music educational and performance programs to children in under-served schools and communities through its Teaching Artist Program and Music 360 outreach performance series.

For more information on the Young Musicians Foundation, please consult our website: www.ymf.org.

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