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MEDIA RELEASE

Debut Chamber Orchestra Announces 2017/18 Season

Los Angeles, August 3, 2017: Flow, Fly, Burn, Build ... Death. Young Musicians Foundation (YMF) Executive Director Walter Zooi and Music Director Yuga Cohler today announced the 2017/18 season of the YMF Debut Chamber Orchestra (DCO).

The upcoming season will be the third and final year of Mr. Cohler's appointment as the Lawrence N. Field Conductor-in-Residence with YMF. Mr. Cohler has programmed a season that reflects YMF's 63-year-old tradition of encouraging adventurous programming combined with the interpretation of significant classical repertoire.

"This season the DCO showcases the full range of styles and functions that the American orchestra can play in the 21st century," Mr. Cohler said. "I am excited to explore this uncharted musical territory with the DCO and demonstrate how classical music can be at the forefront of American cultural consciousness."

Highlights of the 2017/18 season:

- The season-opening concert, **Flow**, on September 29, 2017, features works inspired by water and pays homage to the centennial of **Leonard Bernstein**.
- Violinist **Anne Akiko Meyers**, a YMF alumna, returns as soloist with the DCO in a program titled **Fly** during Sundays Live at LACMA on November 19, 2017.
- The concert titled **Build** on March 11, 2018, includes **Evidence** by **Matthew Aucoin**, the first Artist in Residence at Los Angeles Opera.
- The Great Music Series concert closes the season on April 13, 2018, with **死 (Shi) - The Music of Flying Lotus**. Music from **You're Dead!**, the most recent release of Los Angeles-based DJ, electronic musician, rapper and director Flying Lotus, will be juxtaposed with works by Benjamin Britten and Igor Stravinsky. The commonalities between each of these composers, and by extension, the music of our times and masterpieces of the past, will be explored through created orchestral arrangements created by composer **Stefan Cwik**.

YMF Debut Chamber Orchestra 2017/18 Season

Flow

Friday, September 29, 2017 | 7:30 PM

The Eli & Edythe Broad Stage

1310 11th St., Santa Monica

Leonard BERNSTEIN – *On the Waterfront*: Symphonic Suite

Bedřich SMETANA – *Vltava (The Moldau)*

Claude DEBUSSY – *La Mer*

Fly (with Anne Akiko Meyers)

Sunday, November 19, 2017 | 6:00 PM

Sundays Live at LACMA

Bing Theater, Los Angeles County Museum of Art

5905 Wilshire Blvd., Los Angeles

Ralph VAUGHAN WILLIAMS – *The Lark Ascending* (Anne Akiko Meyers, violin)

Einojuhani RAUTAVAARA – *Fantasia* (Anne Akiko Meyers, violin)

Francis POULENC – *Sinfonietta*

Burn

Friday, February 9, 2018 | 7:30 PM

Zipper Hall, The Colburn School

200 S. Grand Ave., Los Angeles

Igor STRAVINSKY – *Symphony in Three Movements*

Pyotr Ilyich TCHAIKOVSKY – *Symphony No. 4 in F minor, Op. 36*

Build

Sunday, March 11, 2018 | 6:00 PM

Sundays Live at LACMA

Bing Theater, Los Angeles County Museum of Art

5905 Wilshire Blvd., Los Angeles

Ludwig van BEETHOVEN – *Overture to Coriolan*

Matthew AUCOIN – *Evidence*

Maurice RAVEL – *Ma mère l'Oye (Mother Goose)*

The Great Music Series 死 (Shi) - The Music of Flying Lotus

Friday, April 13, 2018 | 8:00 PM

Aratani Theatre, Little Tokyo

244 S. San Pedro St., Los Angeles

Created by Yuga Cohler and Stefan Cwik

The Great Music Series explores the music of Flying Lotus, the LA-based DJ, electronic musician, rapper and director whose genre-defying works have captivated the American cultural consciousness for the past decade. The concert will focus on his latest album, *You're Dead!*, a kaleidoscopic sonic journey through the concept of death (死, or "Shi," means "death" in Japanese). The free-wheeling virtuosic showpieces and otherworldly soundscapes on this album will be transcribed for orchestra and juxtaposed against works by Benjamin Britten and Igor Stravinsky, a pair of equally inventive composers whose works have probed the same depths of transcendence as *You're Dead!*.

Now celebrating its 63rd season, the **Debut Chamber Orchestra (DCO)** is one of the oldest pre-professional training orchestras in the country. Composed of approximately 70 talented musicians ages 15-25 from across the Los Angeles area, the orchestra hones the skills of students who are on the cusp of professional careers. Members are selected each year through blind auditions adjudicated by eminent Los Angeles-based musicians, and alumni of the orchestra perform today in virtually every major symphony orchestra in the country. Currently led by Lawrence N. Field Conductor-in-Residence Yuga Cohler, the orchestra also remains one of a few programs in the country that gives talented young conductors the opportunity to plan, rehearse and conduct a full orchestra season.

Young Musicians Foundation (YMF) believes that youth of all social and cultural backgrounds should have access to exceptional music education and classical music experiences. Through our Teaching Artist Program (TAP) we currently serve over 1,400 elementary, middle and high school students at schools and sites throughout the Los Angeles area. From TAP to the Debut Chamber Orchestra, our interconnected programs are designed to foster, encourage and prepare young musicians at every stage of their development as both artists and individuals.

Yuga Cohler, 28, is the Lawrence N. Field Conductor-in-Residence of the YMF Debut Chamber Orchestra. Since his appointment in 2015, Cohler has quickly risen to international prominence as a conductor and cultural innovator. In addition to conducting repertoire that ranges from Schubert to Salonen, he hosts *The Great Music Series*, which in its first installation, a comparison

of the works of Kanye West and Beethoven titled *Yeethoven*, was hailed as a work of “musical genius.” Cohler has been awarded fellowships to such institutions as the Aspen Music Festival and the Cabrillo Festival of Contemporary Music, and has additionally studied at the Tanglewood Music Center. A skilled interpreter of modern music, Cohler was selected by composer John Adams to perform a program of modern American orchestral music at Carnegie Hall. A *summa cum laude* graduate of Harvard College, where he studied computer science, and a recipient of the Bruno Walter Memorial Scholarship, Cohler also studied with New York Philharmonic Music Director Alan Gilbert at the Juilliard School, where he worked extensively with the Juilliard Orchestra and served as its assistant conductor under Itzhak Perlman. Other orchestras Cohler has conducted in various capacities include the Dallas, Baltimore, Fort Worth, and New Amsterdam symphony orchestras, and the New World and Danish national symphonies.

DEBUT CHAMBER ORCHESTRA

- Yuga Cohler, Lawrence N. Field Conductor-In-Residence, yuga@ymf.org
- Pierre Derycz, Orchestra Manager & Librarian, pierre@ymf.org

YOUNG MUSICIANS FOUNDATION

- Walter Zooi, Executive Director, wzooi@ymf.org

High-resolution photos available at www.ymf.org/press.

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