

## **Sacramento Youth Symphony alum, Ryan Murray, is selected as the new Conductor of the SYS Premier Orchestra**

*Award-winning conductor will succeed Michael Neumann, who is retiring after four decades*

SACRAMENTO, Calif., December 6, 2019 --- The Sacramento Youth Symphony (SYS) is proud to announce the selection of Ryan Murray – an award-winning conductor and SYS alum -- to serve as Conductor of SYS's Premier Orchestra for next year's season beginning in September 2020.

Mr. Murray has won acclaim for leadership with a variety of orchestras and ensembles throughout the region, including vibrant youth music programs. He currently directs the orchestra and opera at Sacramento State University and is Music Director of Opera Modesto. For six years he has been Associate Conductor of the Modesto Symphony Orchestra and Music Director of the Modesto Symphony Youth Orchestra. He is the current Artistic Director of Music in the Mountains, an organization he's been a part of for more than a decade.

Mr. Murray served previously as Music Director of the Fresno Grand Opera, as well as a staff conductor for the Bay Area Summer Opera Theater Institute (BASOTI) and The Opera Academy of California in San Francisco.

With the Modesto Symphony, Mr. Murray has overseen a nearly five-fold increase in audience attendance at their education concerts, and has worked energetically to improve the quality and prominence of the youth orchestra program, emphasizing education and creative programming.

Ryan's own musical journey dates back to his High School days as a bassoonist with SYS (while a student at Sheldon High School). He followed that up at Sac State, graduating summa cum laude in bassoon and voice performance. He has participated in the Summer Conducting Institute at the Eastman School of Music, and will be completing his M.A. in Music Business from Berklee College of Music this spring.

He is a winner of the Vienna Philharmonic's prestigious Ansbacher Fellowship for Young Conductors, and spent the summer in residence alongside the Vienna Philharmonic at the 2014 Salzburg Festival. He won the 2017 American Prize in Opera Conducting for his highly lauded production of André Previn's *A Streetcar Named Desire*, and was a 2016 semi-finalist for the Ernst Bacon Memorial Award for the Performance of American Music for his production of Jake Heggie's *Dead Man Walking*.

As conductor of SYS's Premier Orchestra, Mr. Murray succeeds renowned musical and community leader Michael Neumann, who retires this coming June after forty years with the Sacramento Youth Symphony. "I am delighted to welcome Ryan Murray as the next conductor of the Sacramento Youth Symphony's Premier Orchestra, who was chosen to continue our tradition of excellence in music," he said. "I am honored to be in full support of Ryan and look forward to watching the future development of the Premier Orchestra."

"I am thrilled and honored to be joining the SYS team," said Mr. Murray. "As a young musician growing up in Sacramento, I was one of the many players to be inspired by my time in SYS. I am really excited to join the team and continue the fantastic work that has been done by Maestro Neumann. I look forward to getting to know all of the SYS community and to all of the great music we will make together!"

The SYS will begin accepting audition applications for their 2020-2021 season starting in February 2020. Details can be found at [sacramentoyouthsymphony.org](http://sacramentoyouthsymphony.org).