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NEWS RELEASE

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New Conductors for Santa Rosa Symphony Youth Ensembles Tristan Arnold and Bobby Rogers to lead Preparatory and Discovery orchestras

(SANTA ROSA) —Director of Education Ben Taylor has announced the results of the conductor search for the Santa Rosa Symphony’s beginning and intermediate student orchestras. Tristan Arnold has been chosen to conduct the Preparatory Orchestra and Bobby Rogers will conduct the Discovery Orchestra. Taylor made the announcement in a letter to the families of the Symphony’s youth ensembles members. “Both of these gentlemen are first-rate musicians and educators,” Taylor said. “They will bring a great balance of performance excellence and fun to these orchestras.”

Each conductor is responsible for the overall artistic direction of his orchestra and the musical development of its members according to the guidelines established by the Director of Education and/or the SRS Education Committee. Duties include: evaluating auditions, selection of players and repertoire, and leading rehearsals and performances. The conductor will also nurture and promote the well-being and image of the orchestra, maintain relationships with Symphony staff and the other SRS Youth Ensembles, participate in fundraising and special event planning, and serve as the artistic liaison for the orchestra with community music educators.

Bio - Tristan Arnold, Preparatory Orchestra Conductor

Tristan Arnold is pursuing a Master of Music degree in conducting from San Francisco State University and holds a Bachelor’s degree in music education from Northwestern University. Arnold developed his skills through the Santa Rosa Symphony’s Training Young Musicians program, and performed with the SRS Youth Orchestra at a 2002 performance in Carnegie Hall.

While at Northwestern, Arnold played with every major ensemble including under the baton of composer John Adams as part of the Contemporary Music Ensemble and as the bassist for a performance of Elliot Carter’s *The Harmony of Morning* with the ACDA National Women’s Honor Choir with the composer in attendance. Arnold studied with Greg Sarchet and DaXun Zhang on

double bass, with Ryan Nelson and Victor Yampolsky in conducting, with Jim Kjelland in music education and with Wynne Delacoma of the *Chicago Sun-Times* in music criticism.

After graduation in 2006, Arnold returned to the Bay Area to teach orchestra and chorus at James B. Davidson Middle School in San Rafael. Under his baton, the school's chamber chorus and advanced orchestra ensembles received superior ratings at adjudicated festivals. At San Francisco State, he has served as interim director of the University Wind Ensemble and as assistant director of the University Orchestra.

While teaching and studying, Arnold has remained active as a performer, playing with the American Philharmonic of Sonoma County, local acoustic quartet The Pine Needles and San Francisco-based songwriter Mark David Ashworth. He also contributes book reviews to *Music Educators Journal* and *Strings Magazine*.

Bio - Bobby Rogers, Discovery Orchestra Conductor

Bobby Rogers is a graduate of Sonoma State University (B.A. in Music Education and Jazz Performance) and Sacramento State University (M.A. in Wind Conducting). He was the Region 3 finalist for California Teacher of the Year in 2009 and Claus Noble Educator of Distinction in 2010. Rogers is currently the music director at Pioneer High School in Woodland and newly-elected Woodland Education Association president. He taught previously at Herbert Slater and Rincon Valley Middle Schools. He has also taught at summer music programs including Green Farm at Sonoma State University, Cazadero Music Camp, Summer Music Camp at Stanley and a newly-founded program for students in jazz and classical styles in Woodland. He served as president for the Northern California Band Directors Association from 2009-2011.

Rogers studied conducting with Craig Kirchoff at the University of Minnesota, John Whitwell at Michigan State, H. Robert Reynolds at University of Michigan and USC Thornton School of Music, Mallory Thompson at Northwestern University and Dr. Robert Halseth at Sacramento State University. His private teachers have included Mark Wardlaw, Mel Graves, Harvey Winapple, Mel Martin and Ernie Smalls.

Throughout his career, Rogers has been very active with community orchestras including Cotati Philharmonic and Camellia Symphony. He has also performed and recorded on clarinet, saxophone and flute with various jazz/rock groups such as Lee Press-On and The Nails, Moonlight Swing Orchestra—a Glenn Miller Tribute Band, Placer Pops Orchestra, Jimmy Luxury, Gwen Stefani, Coolio, Third Eye Blind, Smash Mouth and Delfayo Marsalis.

He lives in Woodland with his wife, Kelly, their 3-year-old, Taylor and newborn daughter, Hannah. Bobby enjoys the art of a great BBQ and running 10Ks and half marathons.

Santa Rosa Symphony Training Young Musicians Program – Brief Description

Among the most comprehensive music education program of any regional orchestra in the nation, the Santa Rosa Symphony offers a full complement of five youth ensembles, including:

String Orchestra Workshop - A first ensemble experience for the young musician, in preparation for playing in a full orchestra; **Preparatory Orchestra** - A full orchestra experience for beginning students aged 7 to 15 with at least two years of instrumental experience; **Discovery Orchestra** - A

full orchestra experience for intermediate to advanced young musicians, aged 10-18. The Preparatory and Discovery orchestras each perform 2-5 times per year; **Young People's Chamber Orchestra** - A unique, conductor-less string orchestra training its members to become more complete musicians through musical interaction and collaboration with their peers; **Youth Orchestra** - A full, pre-professional orchestra performing standard orchestral repertoire, the Youth Orchestra performs 6-9 concerts each year for the public, toured Europe in the Summer of 2009, and has performed to standing ovations in Carnegie Hall and Davies Hall; and **Summer Music Academy** - An intense three-week program offering daily instruction for beginning to advanced students on all instruments, culminating in a final performance open to the public.

For detailed information about the Santa Rosa Symphony's Training Young Musicians program, visit the Symphony's [website](#) or call (707) 546-7097 ext. 225.

—Photos of Tristan Arnold and Bobby Rogers are available upon request—