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ASSOCIATION OF CALIFORNIA
SYMPHONY ORCHESTRAS

eNews

UPDATES & OPPORTUNITIES FOR CALIFORNIA'S ORCHESTRAS & CLASSICAL MUSIC FIELD

October 12, 2020

70 Virtual Concerts & Programs by ACSO Members in October

We opened up the [California Concerts Calendar](#) for our organizational members to post upcoming virtual events and concerts, and we are blown away by all the incredible virtual content our members are creating. Nearly 70 events are taking place just in the month of October! [Add your upcoming virtual concerts and events today.](#) Help us spread the word that classical music performance continues on and is more accessible than ever.

NATIONAL
arts & humanities
MONTH

ACSO is proud to highlight our members' October events as part of National Arts & Humanities Month (NAHM), a coast-to-coast collective recognition of the importance of culture in America during the month of October. [Click here to learn about other ways you can participate in NAHM.](#)

Become an ACSO Member

Our mission is to support and help build the capacity of classical music organizations and advocates by providing leadership, resources, and networking. If you have never been a member of ACSO, or if your membership has lapsed, there is no better time than now to join.

It is going to be a turbulent year ahead for the classical music industry. ACSO can provide you with the network, information, advocacy, and tools you need to build your resilience and readiness for what comes next.

The current membership season runs from October 1, 2020 through Sept 30, 2021. [You can find more information about ACSO membership and join here.](#) If you have any questions, don't hesitate to contact us at membership@acso.org.

Welcome to Our New Intern



We are pleased to welcome **Katie Pieschala** to the ACSO team as our Program and Membership Intern. Katie will be working with us for the next five months, focusing on member services and program and administrative support.

Katie is a sophomore at Stanford University studying music and classical composition. She is a pianist and singer, has held chorus roles in productions with the LA Philharmonic and LA Opera, sang with the Los Angeles Children's Chorus, and was a two-time fellow in the Los Angeles Philharmonic Nancy and Barry Sanders Composer Fellowship Program. She is currently involved in artistic production with the Ram's Head Theatrical Society, Stanford's largest and oldest student theater group.

Thanks to the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors (through the Los Angeles County Department of Arts and Culture) for funding Katie's internship as part of its [Arts Internship Program](#)

Upcoming CAC Workshop: Why Race?

Thursday, October 29, 2020, 11am - 12:30pm

Racial equity is the center point for the California Arts Council's (CAC) equity journey. In this 90-minute workshop, they invite their creative communities across the state to share, listen, reflect, and iterate together on racial equity commitments.

This year the CAC will have a new eligibility requirement for [grant applicant organizations](#) to include a racial equity statement. This workshop is one element of the support they are offering for constituents to feel prepared for this new requirement. The workshop will be facilitated by the CAC's new Race

and Equity Manager, Katherin Canton. [Click here for details and registration information.](#)

Webinar Recording Now Available for "Understanding AB 2257, Follow Up Legislation to AB 5, and Its Impact on the Arts Sector"

This webinar was held on October 7 by [Californians for the Arts](#) and nearly 1,000 people registered. [The recording is now available here.](#)

AB 2257, follow up legislation to AB 5, was signed by Governor Newsom on September 4, 2020 and goes into effect immediately. The law includes new exemptions for musicians, performing artists, and fine artists. Learn more about these new exemptions in this webinar moderated by Julie Baker, Executive Director, California Arts Advocates/Californians for the Arts; guest speakers Assemblywoman Lorena Gonzalez, 80th District, Author AB 5 and AB 2257; Assembly Majority Leader Ian C. Calderon, 57th District, Principal Co-author AB 2257; John Acosta, President, AFM Local 47; and Sara B. Boyns, Attorney, Fenton & Keller.

SBA Releases New PPP Forgiveness Form for Loans Under \$50,000

The Small Business Administration issued a new [PPP Forgiveness Application Form 3508S](#) and [3508S Instructions](#) for those small businesses that secured a PPP loan of \$50,000 or less. The most significant benefit of the new form is that employee reductions and salary reductions are no longer penalized. Additionally, the new form does not require submitting mathematical calculations on how the funds were spent, but it still requires the borrower to submit to the lender evidence (bank statements, invoices, etc) that the funds were properly spent. Interestingly, the SBA also reduced the lender's responsibility to "verify" the evidence submitted. SBA just recently began approving PPP forgiveness applications and remitting forgiveness amounts to lenders last week on October 2, 2020.

COVID-19 Federal Relief Update from the League of American Orchestras

On Friday, October 9, our colleagues at the [League of American Orchestras](#)

shared that negotiations over the next federal relief package are continuing, even as the context for finding a bipartisan agreement is fraught amid the rapidly approaching election and the upcoming Supreme Court nomination process. Congressional leadership and the White House have been locked in disagreement over the approach and overall price tag for the next COVID-19 aid package, even as essential forms of relief created under the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES Act) expire.

Despite the on-again, off-again headlines surrounding relief talks, policy leaders do continue to negotiate the fine print of possible elements of a new package, and **ongoing advocacy by orchestras is essential**. Contact Congressional offices through the League's COVID-19 [online advocacy campaign](#), and reach out with direct personal contacts to policy leaders.