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NEWS RELEASE

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Lee Warren, New Executive Director of Fort Worth Youth Orchestra

FORT WORTH, September 22, 2016 — The Fort Worth Youth Orchestra (FWYO) announced today the retirement of Willa Dunleavy, Executive Director. Dunleavy retired on August 1, 2016. She has served over 10 years as FWYO's Executive Director and seen the organization through substantial growth and development.

Prior to joining FWYO, Dunleavy served as the Fort Worth Independent School District's (FWISD) Program Director of Choral and General Music for over 30 years, as well as being a founding member of the Urban Leadership Conference, which she served as the National Chair. Her dedication to bringing quality music education to children shines through the young musicians of the FWYO and she is greatly appreciated for all she has invested in a generation of Fort Worth students and in the future of classical music.

"I am leaving the Fort Worth Orchestra in the capable hands of Lee Warren, who loves and understands the value of classical music as much as I do," said Dunleavy.

Lee Warren returned to Fort Worth, TX, to join the administration of the FWYO on August 1, 2016 as the new Executive Director. Warren is well known in the West Tennessee arts community, having most recently served as Executive Director of the Jackson Symphony in Jackson, TN, from 2010 to 2016 and the Dixie Carter Performing Arts and Academic Enrichment Center in Huntingdon, Tennessee from 2005 to 2009. She also has served as the acting Executive Director of the Fort Worth Youth Orchestra (Texas), Assistant Manager of Administration and Community Engagement for the Fort Worth Symphony Orchestra, Managing and Artistic Director of Education for the Oklahoma Arts Institute, and Director of Education with the Louisville (Kentucky) Orchestra. She also served as Dean of the Aspen (Colorado) Music Festival and School. Warren earned her Bachelor of Arts degree from Emerson College in Boston, Massachusetts, majoring in theater and music performance.

"I am delighted to return to Fort Worth as the Executive Director of the FWYO. For over 52 years, the Fort Worth Youth Orchestra has purposefully been creating the next generation of professional musicians, future patrons of the arts and good global citizens by educating and inspiring young musicians in the pursuit of excellence in classical

orchestral training and performance. The Fort Worth Youth Orchestra's Suzuki Program provides private and group string lessons which prepares children for and supports them throughout their participation in the Fort Worth Youth Orchestra's orchestral training program. This is very important and life transformational work for our community to nurture and support. I look forward to working with FWYO Board, faculty and staff in managing this precious asset for the Fort Worth community." said Warren.

About the Youth Orchestra:

During its 52-year history, the Youth Orchestra has won local, national, and international recognition as one of the finest youth orchestra programs in the United States. The Orchestra's accomplishments include concert tours in Europe, Mexico, Canada, and the Far East, as well as music festivals in Switzerland and Washington DC, and numerous other concert appearances across Texas and the Southwest. With over 2,500 alumni, the organization's impact can be felt throughout the region in both musical and non-musical fields.