



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**SLO Symphony Volunteer Recognized as a "Most Valuable Player" at the
Association of California Symphony Orchestras' 41st Annual Conference**

SAN LUIS OBISPO, CA—Ursula Fitzgerald of Paso Robles, a volunteer for the San Luis Obispo Symphony, was awarded the Most Valuable Player Award at the Annual Meeting of the members of the Association of California Symphony Orchestras (ACSO) in San Diego on August 6, 2009. The awards presentation was part of ACSO's 41st Annual Conference, which took place August 6-8, 2009 and was hosted by the San Diego Symphony. Over 200 orchestra musicians, conductors, board members, volunteers, and staff came together for three days of networking, educational sessions, peer forums and musical events.

Initiated in 1996, the Most Valuable Player Awards were created to recognize exemplary volunteers, volunteer projects, and volunteer organizations working for California's symphony orchestras. ACSO President Sandi Sigurdson presented a total of 6 awards at the ceremony, representing volunteers from orchestras from all budget categories throughout California.

Ursula Fitzgerald served as President of the San Luis Obispo Symphony's North County Symphony Guild periodically for over 15 years. Under her leadership Guild members made over 600 classroom visits with the Music Van from beautiful Cambria on the coast to tiny Shandon on the vast Carissa Plains. During Ursula's tenure the Guild contributed over \$75,000 to the Symphony's artistic and education programs and through their monthly salons deepened personal connections to the Symphony and enriched the lives of classical music lovers in Templeton, Atascadero and Paso Robles.

In June of 2009 the North County Symphony Guild gave way to a new, county-wide Symphony volunteer organization. With great gratitude we thank Ursula for her faithful stewardship, graceful leadership and shy good humor in enthusiastically welcoming the 21st century volunteer model, demonstrating continued financial leadership and personal commitment to the orchestra who owes her so much.

ABOUT ACSO

The Association of California Symphony Orchestras is a non-profit service organization composed of California's professional, chamber, community, and youth orchestras and their volunteer associations, as well as businesses serving the orchestra field. Established in 1969, it provides leadership and services to over 120 orchestras in California and the region. Its mission is to encourage and support the artistic, organizational, and fiscal development of California's symphony orchestras. It fosters their ability to serve a diverse population and promotes to the public the value and importance of orchestras and the music they perform. Services include monthly job announcements, a quarterly newsletter, management consultations, the annual conference and workshops, comparative statistics, Web site, and resource materials. The office is located in Sacramento. For more information, please visit www.acso.org.

ABOUT THE SAN LUIS OBISPO SYMPHONY

Since 1961, the San Luis Obispo Symphony has grown from a fledgling community orchestra to a thriving cultural presence that has toured Spain, Australia, and the U.S., championed the work of Craig H. Russell on three continents, and played such well-known venues as Carnegie Hall, the Sydney Opera House, and the Walt Disney Concert Hall. Symphony Music Education programs reach over 16,000 children and adults each year. The Symphony's 49th season will begin this September with the always-popular *Pops by the Sea* concert on Labor Day Weekend. For more information, please visit www.slosymphony.com or contact Marketing Director Patty Thayer at (805) 543-3533 or patty@slosymphony.com.

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