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## THE ATLANTA SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA'S TALENT DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM CELEBRATES 30th ANNIVERSARY

*With Free Community Events Showcasing  
The Program's Talented Young Musicians and Alumni*

**ATLANTA – September 8, 2023** – The Atlanta Symphony Orchestra's 2023/24 season will mark the 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the [Talent Development Program](#)<sup>™</sup> (TDP). The trailblazing program is a first-of-its-kind initiative among U.S. orchestras, designed to identify, mentor, and develop middle and high school Atlanta musicians of African American and Hispanic/Latine heritage for careers as professional classical musicians.

To commemorate this milestone season, there will be several special events showcasing the TDP's talented young musicians and alumni, many of which are free and open to the public.

- Sunday, September 10, 2023, 4 pm: **TDP Recital**, [TDP30 Recital Series: Spivey Hall](#)
- Sunday, October 8, 2023, 4 pm: **TDP Recital**, First Presbyterian Church, Marietta
- Saturday, November 18, 3 pm: **TDP Musicale: An Alumni Celebration**, Atlanta Symphony Hall. A celebration of the program, its founding members, and talented students past and present.
- November 17 & 18, 2023: [Building Bridges Symposium: Connecting the Pathways](#) in-person, and virtual opportunities to join orchestra and conservatory administrators, orchestra musicians, and program managers to share best practices for creating, funding, evaluating, and growing a pathway program.
- Ongoing: **Masterclass Series** for all instrumentalists in the TDP for the 2023/24 season.
- Saturday, May 4, 2024, 4 pm: **TDP Spring Recital, Rich Theatre**
- Sunday, May 5, 2024, 7 pm: **TDP Spring Recital, Rich Theatre**
- For more information, [aso.org/TDP](https://aso.org/TDP)

"All of us at the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra believe that young African American and Latine musicians in Atlanta, who have the grit and talent to succeed, should have access to a top-tier musical education," said Jennifer Barlament, ASO Executive Director. "The Talent Development Program's alumni have more than met this great challenge and are breaking barriers in all areas of classical music, all over the world."

It is an honor to help lead this work, along with the parents, musicians, staff, volunteers, donors, and community members who support our Talent Development Program students and alumni.”

Notable TDP alumni include:

- [Xavier Foley](#), double bass and composer. Winner of an Avery Fisher Career Grant in 2018 and numerous other competitions, Foley premiered his own concerto with the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra in 2022. Foley is known for his virtuosic and exciting performances.
- [Denielle Wilson](#), cellist with the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra. A 2017 graduate of Northwestern University from Lithonia, GA, Denielle also performed with the Charlotte Symphony Orchestra and the Civic Orchestra of Chicago.
- [Joshua Williams](#), tubist and a 2023 graduate of The Juilliard School of Music will join the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra for a two-year fellowship beginning September of 2023.
- [Daniel Tancredi](#), double bass player who attended the Royal College of Music in London after graduating from TDP. He recently won the Principal Bass position with the Atlanta Opera beginning in the 2023-2024 season.
- Harpist, [Angelica Hairston](#), who founded “Challenge the Stats” concerts providing opportunities for professional African American and Latino musicians in early careers to showcase art in premiere performances.
- [Chelsea Sharpe](#), a graduate of the Shepherd School of Music at Rice University and the University of Southern California’s Thornton School of Music, is now a violinist with the Dubrovnik Symphony Orchestra in Croatia and has held a position with the Louisville Symphony.
- [Shaquille Southwell](#), clarinet performing and teaching artist with the Atlanta Symphony and the Atlanta Music Project. Shaquille graduated from The Juilliard School of Music and recently won the Principal Clarinet position with the Louisiana Philharmonic Orchestra in 2023.
- TED fellow [Stanford Thompson](#), former Executive Director, and Founder of “Play on, Philly!” to give students ages six to 13 personal development opportunities through musical study. He currently serves as Executive Director of Equity Arc, an organization that provides specialized mentoring support for young musicians of color and works with institutions to help take meaningful steps towards equity and inclusion in the music field.

Special thanks to the sponsors of the Talent Development Program, which include: A Friend of the Symphony, Accenture, Alston & Bird, The Coca-Cola Company, Delta Air Lines, EY, Georgia-Pacific, Georgia Power, Graphic Packaging, The Home Depot Foundation and Porsche Cars North America.

### **About the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra’s Talent Development Program**

The mission of the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra's Talent Development Program™ is to identify and develop musically gifted and motivated, African American, and Hispanic/Latine classical music students for acceptance into top music programs in preparation for careers as professional musicians. The ASO’s commitment is partly demonstrated through an annual investment of more than \$250,000 in the Talent Development Program. Financial gifts are accepted; please mention the Azira G. Hill Scholarship Fund when asked where to designate a donation.

### **About the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra**

Under the leadership of Music Director Nathalie Stutzmann, the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra (ASO) offers live performances, media initiatives, and learning programs that unite, educate, and enrich our

community through the engaging and transformative power of orchestral music experiences. The ASO engages the diverse international community of our city, bringing people together in harmony—including our youngest citizens, with extensive opportunities for youth and families to fall in love with music. Two hallmark education programs celebrate anniversaries this season: the Atlanta Youth Symphony Orchestra celebrates 50 years, and the Talent Development Program turns 30.

The Orchestra's range and depth are featured in more than 150 concerts each year, including the flagship Delta Classical Series, Movies in Concert, Family Concerts, Coca-Cola Holiday series and many community and education concerts. In addition, the ASO presents many vibrant, wide-ranging events and artists through its Delta Atlanta Symphony Hall Live presentations. The ASO also performs with the ASO Chorus, originally founded by Robert Shaw, and currently under the direction of Norman Mackenzie. The Chorus is featured on nine of the ASO's 27 Grammy® Award-winning recordings.

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