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**ATLANTA SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA TALENT DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM NAMES SPARK
AWARD RECIPIENTS**

AWARD HONORS DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI OF TDP ANNUALLY

2022 Recipients are Vincent Tapia IV, trombone, and Denielle Wilson, cello

ATLANTA – The [Atlanta Symphony Orchestra Talent Development Program \(TDP\)](#) has named **Vincent Tapia IV, trombone, and Denielle Wilson, cello**, the 2022 winners of the first annual **TDP Spark Award**. The award recognizes the accomplished alumni of the TDP who serve as examples of excellence and musicianship professionally and in the community. The awards were presented Saturday, November 19 at the TDP Musicale recital by **Congresswoman Nikema Williams (GA-05)**.

The TDP is one of the longest-running musical education and diversity initiatives in the United States. In 2023, the TDP will celebrate its 30th year of providing Black and Latinx student musicians with the highest quality musical training, including private instruction with ASO players, mentorship and performance opportunities, and access to the resources of a major American orchestra. More than 100 TDP graduates have attended top music schools and conservatories across America.

“We are excited to present the inaugural Spark Awards to Vincent and Denielle, celebrating the impact they have made since graduating from the Talent Development Program and embarking on professional music careers,” said **Ryan Walks, ASO Talent Development Program Manager**. “They are perfect examples of the purpose and mission

of the TDP, and a testament to the progress toward increasing diversity in American classical music.”

“A career in classical music blossoms today from seeds planted long ago,” remarked **ASO Director of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion, Brandi Hoyos**. “The ASO Talent Development Program nurtures that growth and has done so for nearly 30 years. We are so proud of Vincent and Denielle.”

Vincent Tapia IV, TDP class of 2019, currently studies trombone performance at the Cleveland Institute of Music under Peter Sullivan. After graduating this spring, he plans to pursue his master’s degree, perform as a professional musician and teach in a private studio. In 2018, Vincent appeared with the Mansfield Symphony Orchestra and attended the Aspen Music Festival. He placed first in the Ira B. Martin Solo Competition, Brass and Winds Division and received the Anthony P. Hopkins Memorial Prize for Trombone for the 2020-2021 school year.

Denielle Wilson, ASO cellist and TDP class of 2013, studied music performance at Northwestern University and the Cincinnati Conservatory of Music. She has performed with the Charlotte Symphony, the Cincinnati Symphony, the Chicago Civic Orchestra, and the Grant Park Music Festival. Denielle completed her first year as an acting section cellist for the Charlotte Symphony Orchestra before winning a position with the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra for the 2022-2023 season.

About the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra

The Atlanta Symphony Orchestra (ASO) is in its 78th season, with Nathalie Stutzmann as only the fifth Music Director in the history of the Orchestra and the only woman to ever hold the position. Maestro Stutzmann will continue the ASO’s mission of bringing new and exciting composers and guest artists to Atlanta.

The ASO is one of the leading orchestras in the United States, performing more than 150 concerts each year from the Delta Classical, Movies in Concert, Family Concert, and Coca-Cola Holiday series, as well as the Atlanta Symphony Hall LIVE concerts and many community and education concerts.

In addition, the ASO performs with the 200+ voice, all-volunteer ASO Chorus, originally founded in 1970 by Robert Shaw and currently under the Direction of Norman Mackenzie. The chorus was featured on nine of the ASO’s Grammy-award-winning recordings.

About the Talent Development Program

As one of the longest-running, year-round musical education diversity programs, the Talent Development Program (TDP) provides 25 young Black and Latinx student musicians with the highest level of musical training each school year. More than 100 TDP graduates have gone on to attend top music schools and conservatories across the country. This

strong education foundation has helped prepare the TDP graduates for successful careers as performers, teachers, orchestra musicians, and entrepreneurs.