



Victoria Griswold, ISO Violinist, One of Only Five Orchestra Musicians in the Country to Receive Ford Musician Awards for Excellence in Community Service from League of American Orchestras

Griswold to Share Award-Winning Work at the League's 74th National Conference in Nashville, June 3-5

(May 9, 2019) – The Indianapolis Symphony Orchestra's own Victoria Griswold is one of just five orchestra musicians from across the U.S. who will receive **Ford Musician Awards for Excellence in Community Service** from the League of American Orchestras at the [League's 74th National Conference in Nashville, June 3-5, 2019](#). The awards celebrate professional orchestra musicians who provide exemplary service in their communities and make a significant impact through education and community engagement.

This year's awardees work with children of all ages in a variety of initiatives, introducing young children to orchestral instruments through story, live music, and movement; teaching hearing and speech-impaired children new skills; providing music education and engagement to students from underserved communities; connecting with children and families in outlying communities through creative programming; and facilitating the creation of new compositions by high school students.

"The ISO is so proud and honored to work with Victoria," said CEO James Johnson. "Her creativity and energy are inspiring, and the innovative programs she developed with our Learning Community have opened up an entirely new avenue to introduce families to our mission. Bringing engaging programming into the neighborhoods of our community allows us to circumvent the barriers of accessibility preventing some young people and their families from connecting with us."

"These musicians' artistry and commitment drives compelling work that touches the lives of so many in their communities," said Jesse Rosen, the League's President and CEO. "Ford Motor Company Fund's ongoing support has helped us share the inspiring stories of these trailblazing mentors and leaders with the entire orchestra field and beyond."

"We're proud to recognize these five musicians, whose contributions to their communities will create a lasting positive impact," said Yisel Cabrera, Manager, Government and Community Relations, Ford Motor Company Fund. "Music and the arts have the ability to transcend boundaries and bring people together, which is why the generous service these musicians are providing is so important."

The musicians will receive their awards at the League of American Orchestras' [Conference Luncheon](#), June 4 at 12:45 p.m., and discuss their work at [Musicians Transforming Communities](#), an elective session for Conference delegates on June 4 at 9:00 a.m. Videos of the musicians in action will be posted on the League's website after the Conference.

A member of the ISO since 1993, Victoria Griswold began writing programs for the *Teddy Bear Series* in 2014. The *Teddy Bear Series* introduces preschool & kindergarten students (ages 3-7) to the orchestra through story, movement, and live music. Each program features five musicians from the Indianapolis Symphony Orchestra performing alongside dramatic narration in a unique, interactive experience. Griswold has created four unique stories so far. In 2018, Griswold adapted

one of her stories, *The Garden Symphony*, into a book, the first children's book published by the ISO. The organization plans to publish another story from the series, *Monkey's Jungle Jam*, in late 2019.

Victoria and the Indianapolis Symphony Orchestra received the Indiana Library Federation Collaboration Award for the *Teddy Bear Series* in 2018. This award recognizes a corporation, organization, individual library, or a group of libraries that has made significant contributions in the efforts of promoting library services in a community, region, or at the statewide level.

The five award recipients and their orchestras are:

Victoria Griswold, Violin

Indianapolis Symphony Orchestra

Teddy Bear Series, introducing young children to orchestral instruments through story, live music, and movement

Jeff Handley, Principal Percussion

Chicago Sinfonietta

Audience Matters and SEED, in-school residency programs for students from underserved communities

Rebecca Patterson, Principal Cello

New Haven Symphony Orchestra

NHSO Harmony Fellowship Quartet / Recording Composition Class, for students from underrepresented communities

Donna Parkes, Principal Trombone

Louisville Orchestra

Teaching children at the Heuser Hearing Institute with hearing and speech impairment skills such as singing, clapping with rhythm, and dancing.

Rebecca Young, Associate Principal Viola

New York Philharmonic

Very Young People's Concerts

About the Ford Musician Awards for Excellence in Community Service:

Now in its fourth year, the League's Ford Musician Awards program, made possible by the generous support of Ford Motor Company Fund, honors and celebrates professional orchestra musicians who provide exemplary and meaningful service in their communities and make a significant impact through education and community engagement.

The musicians were selected by a panel of peer professionals through a competitive nomination process to receive the awards, which include a \$2,500 grant to each musician, as well as an additional \$2,500 grant to the musician's home orchestra to support professional development focused on community service and engagement for musicians.

Previous Award Recipients:

[2018 award recipients](#) included Jeffrey Barker, associate principal flute, Seattle Symphony; John R. Beck, principal percussionist, Winston Salem Symphony; Jody Chaffee, Community Engagement Director, Flute, Firelands Symphony Orchestra; Erin Hannigan, Principal Oboe, Dallas Symphony Orchestra; and Juan R. Ramírez Hernández, Violin, Atlanta Symphony Orchestra. [Videos of the 2018 awardees can be found here.](#)

[2017 award recipients](#) included Mark Dix, viola, Phoenix Symphony; Michael Gordon, principal flute, Kansas City Symphony; Diane McElfish Helle, violin, Grand Rapids Symphony; Eunsoon Lee-Coroliss, assistant principal violist, Knoxville Symphony Orchestra; and Peter Zlotnick, education manager/principal timpani, Greensboro Symphony. [Videos of the 2017 awardees can be found here.](#)

[2016 award recipients](#) included Penny Anderson Brill, viola, Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra; Shannon Orme, bass clarinet, Detroit Symphony Orchestra; Jeffrey Paul, Principal Oboe, South Dakota Symphony Orchestra; Brian Prechtl, percussion, Baltimore Symphony Orchestra; and Beth Vandervennet, cello, Oakland Symphony.

This is the League's second partnership project with Ford Motor Company Fund, which was the title sponsor of Ford Made in America, the largest commissioning consortium in the country's history.

About the Indianapolis Symphony Orchestra:

Under the leadership of Music Director Krzysztof Urbanski and Principal Pops Conductor Jack Everly, the Indianapolis Symphony Orchestra has become a leading orchestra in the nation with its commitment to artistic excellence, diverse and creative programming inside and outside its historic Hilbert Circle Theatre home, its engagement with communities throughout the state of Indiana and its ambitious approaches to music education, performance and collaboration. In the decades since its founding in 1930, the ISO has presented a range of classical, pops, family and holiday programming to hundreds of thousands of people each year; received national and international acclaim with its radio broadcasts, tours and recordings; and became the first major orchestra with a resident ensemble.

The ISO continues to engage new audiences through innovative programming including the Fifth Third Bank *Lunch Break Series* of casual 45-minute performances each summer, the holiday traditions of the IPL *Yuletide Celebration*, the Stella Artois *Happy Hour at the Symphony Series*, and the popular Bank of America *Film Series*.

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About Ford Motor Company Fund

As the philanthropic arm of Ford Motor Company, Ford Fund's mission is to strengthen communities and help make people's lives better. Working with dealers and nonprofit partners in 63 countries, Ford Fund provides access to opportunities and resources that help people reach their full potential. Since 1949, Ford Fund has invested more than \$2 billion in programs that support education, promote safe driving, enrich community life and encourage employee volunteering. For more information, visit www.fordfund.org or join us at @FordFund on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#).

The **League of American Orchestras** leads, supports, and champions America's orchestras and the vitality of the music they perform. Its diverse membership of more than 2,000 organizations and individuals across North America runs the gamut from world-renowned orchestras to community groups, from summer festivals to student and youth ensembles, from conservatories to libraries, from businesses serving orchestras to individuals who love symphonic music. The only national organization dedicated solely to the orchestral experience, the League is a nexus of knowledge and innovation, advocacy, and leadership advancement. Its conferences and events, award-winning *Symphony* magazine, website, and other publications inform people around the world about orchestral activity and developments. Founded in 1942 and chartered by Congress in 1962, the League links a national network of thousands of instrumentalists, conductors, managers and administrators, board members, volunteers, and business partners. Visit americanorchestras.org.

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