



MEDIA CONTACT:

Scott Horton Communications

510-735-9200

Bluescott260@hotmail.com

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

OAKLAND SYMPHONY EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR STEPS DOWN

OAKLAND, CA, August 9, 2017 -- **Steven Payne**, Executive Director of the Oakland Symphony since July 2013, will leave the organization at the end of September. Payne served for more than four years and brought a renewed energy and structure to the Oakland Symphony since its merger with the Oakland Symphony Youth Orchestra and Oakland Symphony Chorus three years prior to his arrival. **Cristine Kelly**, who has served as a development and marketing consultant to the Symphony since November 2016, will be interim Executive Director while the Board of Directors undertakes a national search. For information about the Oakland Symphony, visit www.OaklandSymphony.org.

During Payne's tenure, the Symphony garnered new financial support, increased individual giving and secured several national-level grants, including funding from The Wallace Foundation and the Getty Foundation. The Oakland Symphony Chorus embarked on its first international tour in its 55-year history in July 2015 to Budapest, Vienna and Prague. In addition, the Oakland Symphony Youth Orchestra was one of the first youth groups to travel to Cuba since the recent relaxation of travel restrictions.

"I am proud of what we have managed to accomplish during my time with the Oakland Symphony," says Payne. "I leave with many fond memories of the terrific concerts that we have helped to shape and bring to the public. Oakland is blessed to have such talented artists who call this city home. It has been an honor to work alongside our musicians, conductors and composers--who grace the concert stage and give such joy to Oakland's residents--and with the Oakland Symphony staff, whose dedication and hard work make it happen."

"We are grateful to Steve for the leadership and innovations that he brought to the Symphony during his time with us," says **Robert Kidd**, President of the Oakland Symphony Board of Directors. "We are excited to build on Steve's achievements, and we wish him the best of luck in his future endeavors."

Cristine Kelly brings a broad knowledge of the performing arts field, and will work closely with Music Director **Michael Morgan** and members of the Board to advance the Symphony's mission to strengthen the community by providing quality live performances, education for lifetime enrichment and the perpetuation of the performing arts in one of the most dynamic and diverse cities in the US.

About the Oakland Symphony

The Oakland Symphony celebrates its 28th season in 2017—2018 with Music Director Michael Morgan conducting a six-concert subscription season and continuing community programming that reflects and responds to Oakland's dynamic social landscape. As a flagship cultural organization in a city known for inclusion, innovation and dynamic change, the Oakland Symphony takes pride in embracing and reflecting Oakland's diversity, maverick creative spirit, individualism and style. The Symphony serves thousands of people in the Bay Area through its concerts and education programs, including the Oakland Symphony Youth Orchestra, the Oakland Symphony Chorus, and its national award-winning MUSE (Music for Excellence) program.

###