



For Immediate Release

Oakland Symphony Launches “Hall Pass” New Program to Provide Increased Access to Community Members

(Oakland, CA, November 26, 2018) – Oakland Symphony today announced the launch of **Hall Pass**, a program to provide free concert tickets and increased access to the organization’s concerts to non-traditional audiences and members of the community. Through this new initiative, the Oakland Symphony will strengthen music and arts exposure for families, children, and adults who have not been able to engage regularly with the organization. This program will create concert opportunities, share memories, enrich lives, and introduce new audiences to the Symphony’s diverse and critically acclaimed programming.

Hall Pass eligibility is determined by Alameda County Social Services in conjunction with Alameda County organizations providing no-cost or low-cost services to individuals and families receiving state assistance. Anyone receiving financial assistance from the State of California as well as Active, Guard, and Reserve Military households are also eligible.

Hall Pass is modeled after the Grand Rapids Symphony’s “Symphony Scorecard” program. In three years, the Scorecard program has provided over 8,000 free tickets to low-income and military households in Kent, Ottawa, and Muskegon Counties in Michigan.

Current Community Partners include Alameda County Social Services and Child Support Services, United Services Organization, Inc., Oakland Unified School District, Unity Council, Alameda County Independent Living Program, American Indian Child Resource Center, Brothers on the Rise, Order of Malta Clinic, and Oakland District 2.

“The Oakland Symphony is thrilled to partner and work with so many local and neighborhood organizations to inspire, influence, and improve the quality of life for people throughout the Bay Area,” said Oakland Symphony Executive Director Dr. Mieko Hatano.

“The Alameda County Social Services Agency is proud to partner with the Oakland Symphony on the new Hall Pass program. Providing more access to music and the arts helps to enrich the lives of those we serve in ways that we simply cannot,” said Sylvia Soublet, Alameda County Social Services Agency Director of Public Affairs.

For more information about the Hall Pass program visit oaklandsymphony.com or contact Warren Williams, Director of Education and Community Engagement, wwilliams@oaklandsymphony.org.



To reserve tickets, Hall Pass members must have a pass from a community partner and a pass ID number to reserve tickets. Once they've received an ID number, patrons can contact the Oakland Symphony Box office directly, M-F, 9:00am-4:00pm at (510) 444-0802. Tickets can be picked up at the Oakland Symphony offices during business hours or at the Paramount Theatre Box Office Will Call window on concert nights starting 90 minutes before the performance.

The 2018-2019 Oakland Symphony Concerts included in Hall Pass are:
Swing and Soul - Let Us Break Bread Together, Sunday, December 16, 2018
To Belong Here: Notes from the African Diaspora, Friday, January 25, 2019
An Evening with Emanuel Ax, Friday, February 8, 2019
"Si, Se Puede": Dolores Huerta's Playlist, Friday, February 22, 2019
I Raise Up My Voice, Friday, March 22, 2019
West Side Story, Friday, May 10, 2019

Hall Pass is made possible by the Wallace Foundation.

About Oakland Symphony

The Oakland Symphony, Youth Orchestra, and Chorus brings together orchestral music, choral music, and youth education to strengthen the Oakland and East Bay communities by providing quality live performances, education for lifetime enrichment and the perpetuation of the performing arts. For over 30 years, Oakland Symphony has featured both local and nationally acclaimed artists to make classical music accessible particularly to those who might otherwise never hear live symphonic music.

The Symphony serves as a community resource, offering education, performances, and outreach to schools and the community. The ongoing goal of the Oakland Symphony is to ensure the future of symphonic music through the commissions and performances of works by contemporary American composers and provide leadership in the artistic community by fostering unity, collaboration and co-creation among Oakland and East Bay arts organizations.

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