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**YOUTH ORCHESTRA OF CENTRAL JERSEY ANNOUNCES NEW SEASON LINEUP
In-person Rehearsals, Master Classes and New Symphonic Conductor**

October 2021 – The Youth Orchestra of Central Jersey (YOCJ), is pleased to kick off the 2021-2022 season with rehearsals and performances resuming in person as well as a host of exciting activities that will keep young musicians engaged throughout the year. In addition, as part of its ongoing partnership with the Princeton Symphony Orchestra (PSO), YOCJ is delighted to welcome Kenneth Bean, Assistant Conductor for PSO as its new Symphonic Orchestra conductor.

The partnership is the formalization of an ongoing relationship established through the PSO's BRAVO! Education Program which encourages young musicians and their families to be exposed to extensive performance repertoire and be inspired by professional artists. Integral to the partnership, the PSO has expanded its assistant conductor position to include leadership of YOCJ's Symphonic Orchestra.

"From our first meeting with Kenneth Bean, our staff and students felt an instant connection. He brings a wealth of knowledge and youth orchestra experience; but most of all, he brings a warmth and love for students. We are so excited to have Kenny as our Symphonic Orchestra conductor and to continue our partnership with the Princeton Symphony Orchestra." said Phillip Pugh, Artistic Director, YOCJ.

YOCJ is also pleased to welcome back David Kim, Concertmaster for The Philadelphia Orchestra who will play the mighty Beethoven Violin Concerto with the YOCJ Symphonic Orchestra on Sunday, January 23, 2022 at the Yvonne Theater, Rider University. Mr. Kim has previously collaborated with YOCJ through performances and master classes.

Looking ahead into the season, YOCJ will provide opportunities for students to refine and grow their skills through master classes led by renowned clinicians such as David Kim and others. Master classes will be available for woodwinds, brass and percussion as well as string players.

"The students and conductors alike are thrilled to be back rehearsing in person! We look forward to a robust, fun-filled new season making music together." said Philip Pugh.

Talented young students interested in broadening their performing opportunities, can find more information [here](#).

ABOUT THE YOUTH ORCHESTRA OF CENTRAL JERSEY

The Youth Orchestra of Central Jersey was founded in 1978 by the late Portia Sonnenfeld as a preparatory orchestra for the Mercer County Symphony Orchestra (now called the Greater Princeton Youth Orchestra). Ms. Sonnenfeld shaped the ensemble into a group capable of performing the standard orchestra literature and 20th century works. It then grew to encompass two string orchestras and a wind ensemble, and became known as the String Preparatory Orchestra. In 1999, with increased enrollment, the orchestra was incorporated under the name "Youth Orchestra of Central Jersey." Venues have included Princeton University's Richardson Auditorium, Rutgers University's Nicholas Music Center, the Ocean City Music Pier in New Jersey, Mayo Hall at TCNJ, Kendall Hall at TCNJ, the New Jersey Performing Arts Center, Heritage Festival Competition in Boston, the Niagara International Music Festival, the Canadian Broadcasting Center, the Royal Conservatory of Music in Toronto, Haydn Hall in Esterhazy, Austria, Bethlehem Chapel in Prague, the Czech Radio Station Recording Studio in Prague, Peterskirche in Leipzig, and the Französische Friedrichstadt Kirche am Gendarmenmarkt in Berlin.

Unique to the Youth Orchestra of Central Jersey are its chamber groups for flute, saxophone, brass, woodwinds, and percussion that offer an unparalleled opportunity for small ensembles that feature these instruments in performance. YOCJ Jersey is a growing, vibrant organization that looks forward to carrying on the tradition of providing diverse musical experiences to the talented young musicians of our region.