

## CELEBRATE YOUR HOLIDAYS WITH THE JACKSONVILLE SYMPHONY YOUTH ORCHESTRAS!

Jacksonville, FL (December 6, 2017) --- The Jacksonville Symphony Youth Orchestras (JSYO) will perform their annual holiday concert on Monday, December 18 at 7:00pm.

**WHO:** The JSYO is under the direction of Principal Conductor and Symphony Assistant Conductor **Deanna Tham**. Hailing from Saratoga, California, Tham has conducted and guest conducted all over the United States, most recently working with renowned conductors Marin Alsop and James Ross at the Cabrillo Contemporary Music Festival. Before joining the Jacksonville Symphony, Tham was the music director of the 350-piece Louisville Youth Orchestra. Tham has also served as the music director of the Boise Philharmonic Youth Orchestra and has conducted the Boise Philharmonic, Ballet Idaho and Opera Idaho.

The JSYO Assistant Conductors are as follows:

**Helen Morin** will conduct both Encore Strings and Premier Strings. She earned her Master of Music in Violin Performance with Lucia Lin at Boston University and her Bachelor of Music from Trinity College of Music in London. Morin has been in St. Augustine since 2010 and often plays with the Jacksonville Symphony as well as freelances with local chamber orchestras in St. Augustine.

**Rose Francis** will head up Foundation Strings at the Florida State College of Jacksonville's South Campus. Francis is involved as an educator and conductor throughout Northeast Florida serving as the string orchestra director at Pine Forest Magnet School of the Arts in Duval County, an adjunct professor in Upper String Techniques and Pedagogy at the University of North Florida and conductor of the Civic Orchestra of Jacksonville.

Violinist **Naira Cola** has been performing with the Jacksonville Symphony since 2012. She will serve as the conductor of the Clay County Foundation Strings. Cola was born and raised in Pensacola, FL and her upbringing was filled with jazz, gospel and soul music.

**David Song**, a native of Jeon-Ju, South Korea, will conduct the Jump Start Strings ensemble at the Florida State College of Jacksonville's South Campus. Song began studying violin at the age of 10 and has performed extensively as an orchestral, chamber and solo violinist.

**John Wieland**, principal bass for the Jacksonville Symphony, has assumed additional duties as Assistant Conductor for the Jacksonville Symphony Youth Orchestras in charge Woodland Acres Jump Start Strings and Foundation Strings.

**WHAT:** Ensembles in order of performance:

- Foundation Strings – Naira Cola & Rose Francis
- Encore Strings – Helen Morin
- Premier Strings – Helen Morin

- Repertory Orchestra – Deanna Tham
- Philharmonic - Deanna Tham

Throughout the evening, the five ensembles will play a selection of holiday favorites from “Carol of the Bells” to “Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas.” The Philharmonic will end the evening with *A Christmas Festival* and selections from *Harry Potter and the Sorcerer’s Stone*.

During the evening the JSYO will be selling t-shirts, jackets and other items. Profits from these sales will go towards supporting the JSYO.

**WHEN:** The JSYO concert will take place on Monday, December 18 at 7:00pm

**WHERE:** The JSYO concert will be held in Jacoby Symphony Hall in the Times-Union Center for the Performing Arts.

**SPONSOR:** The JSYO is presented by Florida State College at Jacksonville and Publix Super Markets Charities.

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The Jacksonville Symphony is North Florida’s leading music nonprofit offering live performances at Jacoby Hall in the Times-Union Center for the Performing Arts and other venues throughout the area. In addition, the Symphony provides music instruction for youth and operates the Jacksonville Symphony Youth Orchestra. For more information about the Symphony, visit [JaxSymphony.org](http://JaxSymphony.org), like them at [facebook.com/JaxSymphony](https://facebook.com/JaxSymphony), follow them on @jaxsymphony, on Instagram at JaxSymphony and on YouTube at JacksonvilleSymphony.