

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Jacksonville Symphony Associate Conductor Receives Distinguished Career Assistance Award from The Solti Foundation U.S.

Jacksonville, Fla – Jacksonville Symphony Associate Conductor Kevin Fitzgerald has been selected as one of 22 conductors to receive the 2023 Career Assistance Awards (CAA) by The Solti Foundation U.S. Fitzgerald joined the Jacksonville Symphony in 2022.

“These grants provide funding for young conductors to invest in their craft and to develop as artists and leaders,” said Fitzgerald. “I would not be the conductor I am today without the support of the Solti Foundation and I encourage anyone who is interested in the future of classical music to support them in their mission. It’s an honor to be selected once again.”

The Solti Foundation U.S.’s Career Assistance Grants help provide monetary assistance to young conductors in the early stages of their careers for creative projects, educational endeavors, masterclasses, and more. In addition to financial assistance, the awards also serves as a conduit for the continued growth of the classical music genre.

Outside of the concert and operatic experiences that serve as the musical cornerstones that are expected of applicants, The Solti Foundation U.S. also recognizes all of the recipients for their unique focuses on community, education and even technology within their organizations.

“It is a joy to receive applications from so many young conductors who are so passionate about classical music, who seek to connect audiences to classical music and who continue to do so through creative programming, varied education approaches, masterclasses, lectures, social media, and other projects,” said The Solti Foundation U.S. Board Chair Penny Van Horn.

As a 2021 Tanglewood Music Center Conducting Fellow and now four-time recipient of Career Assistance Grants from The Solti Foundation U.S., Kevin Fitzgerald is at the forefront of the next generation of conductors. Recently, Kevin was invited as one of the twenty conductors to participate in the 2023 Mahler Competition with the Bamberg Symphony.

In addition to his post as Associate Conductor of the Jacksonville Symphony, Fitzgerald has recently guest conducted the Rochester Philharmonic, North Carolina Symphony and the Chamber Orchestra of Pittsburgh. In his commitment to uplifting communities through music, Fitzgerald conducted Beethoven’s Ninth Symphony in 2017 with musicians from the Detroit, Lansing and Grand Rapids Symphonies to raise over \$10,000 for the International Rescue Committee and Freedom House Detroit. In 2016, he also co-organized and conducted an impromptu performance called “Requiem for Orlando,” which featured over 400 volunteer musicians in a dedicated performance for victims of the Pulse Nightclub shooting in Orlando,

Florida. Since then, he has participated in masterclasses with Michael Tilson Thomas and the New World Symphony, Andris Nelsons and Alan Gilbert at Tanglewood among many others.

About The Solti Foundation U.S

In its third decade of assisting outstanding young U.S. conductors to further develop their talent and careers, The Solti Foundation U.S. is the foremost organization in the United States dedicated exclusively to helping young conductors. Established in 2000 to honor the memory of the legendary conductor Sir Georg Solti by lending significant support to career-ready young American musicians, in 2004, the Foundation concentrated the focus of its award program to solely assist talented young American conductors early in their professional careers (its original mission was of a more general arts nature). Since then, it has awarded over one million dollars through grants and residencies to American conductors. The Foundation endeavors to seek out those musicians who have chosen to follow a path similar to that followed by Sir Georg himself. In keeping with the spirit of Sir Georg's active approach to his career, young conductors must apply to be considered for the awards. While dedicated to identifying and assisting young conductors early on, the Foundation is also concerned with the long-term development of its award recipients, continuing to offer support, and maintaining a constant interest in their growth and achievements.

About the Jacksonville Symphony

The Jacksonville Symphony is North Florida's leading music nonprofit offering live performances at Jacoby Symphony Hall in the Jacksonville 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 Orchestras. For more information about the Symphony, visit JaxSymphony.org.

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