

PRESS RELEASE
For Immediate Release

DC Youth Orchestra Program Announces Appointment of New Executive Director

The DC Youth Orchestra Program has appointed Ava Spece its new executive director, effective November 29, 2004. This appointment follows a nationwide search that began in the spring of 2004. The retirement this summer of founder and music director, Lyn McLain, precipitated these staff changes.

The executive-director is a new position for the organization. Spece will be dedicated to overall management of the organization. Mr. McLain has volunteered to remain with the program as the conductor and president of the Board of Directors while relinquishing day to day management responsibilities.

"The Board is elated with this appointment," noted McLain, "and looks forward to moving the DCYOP through this next step in the history of our organization. Ava brings a unique blend of business experience, leadership, and music education."

Spece was formerly executive director of ICD Bridges, a social service organization in San Angelo, Texas. Before that she held a senior management position with Kinko's for twelve years. Spece received her B.S. in music from Portland State University, and performed clarinet and taught privately in the Pacific Northwest.

As executive director of the DCYOP, Spece will be responsible for the DCYOP's administration, personnel and financial management, public relations and strategic development.

The DC Youth Orchestra 2004-05 season will celebrate Maestro McLain's 44th season as conductor. Upcoming concerts include the Junior Philharmonic and Youth Orchestra performances at 4:00 p.m., on January 30, 2005, at the University of District of Columbia Auditorium. In celebration of Black History Month, the program will feature American composers, Mark Fax (three excerpts from his opera *Till Victory Is Won*), Talib-Rasul Hakim (*Birmingham Reflections* for narrator and orchestra), Chris Royal (*Lament* in memory of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.), and *Rainbows Inside Out* by Carrie Rose. In addition, on January 23, young musicians from the orchestras will be performing at 2 and 4 p.m. at the Coolidge High School Auditorium.

(Future performances and contact information can be obtained at www.dcyop.org.)