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The MAX Hosts Youth Symphony Day
with Mississippi Youth Symphony Orchestra and Meridian Symphony Association

MERIDIAN, Miss. (October 23, 2025) – The Mississippi Arts + Entertainment Experience (The MAX) is excited to announce a partnership with the Mississippi Youth Symphony Orchestra (MYSO) and the Meridian Symphony Association (MSA) to host "Youth Symphony Day" on Saturday, November 15, 2025. The event is designed to encourage and inspire the next generation of Mississippi musicians.

Guests will enjoy a special day of music and visual art for a reduced admission fee of \$5. As always, school faculty and staff receive free admission with a valid ID.

The day begins with an Instrument Zoo hosted by the Meridian Symphony Association. From 9:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m., families are invited to explore and enjoy a hands-on experience with a variety of instruments, guided by their knowledgeable instructors and board members. At 10:30 a.m., the Mississippi Youth Symphony Orchestra will begin a series of performances by their ensembles, including their preparatory string ensemble, woodwind ensemble, brass ensemble, Amadeus string ensemble, and finally, a performance by the full MYSO Scherzo Orchestra.

The Meridian Museum of Art will also be on-site to offer hands-on creative activities for participating students.

"The Mississippi Youth Symphony Orchestra is thrilled to partner with The MAX and the Meridian Symphony Association for this unique event," said Janet Reihle, president + executive director of the Mississippi Symphony Orchestra. "It's a wonderful opportunity for families to discover the joy of music and learn about the amazing educational

programs available right here in Meridian and Mississippi. We believe that fostering an interest in the arts at a young age is key to inspiring Mississippi's future legends.”

“Meridian has a rich history with the arts, but particularly music,” said Carra Purvis, executive director of The Meridian Symphony Orchestra. “This collaboration with the Mississippi Youth Symphony Orchestra and The MAX is a perfect way for our community to celebrate the achievements of these young musicians while leading more area students towards a pathway in the musical arts.”

“Our goal at The MAX is not just to celebrate great artists from our state's past and present – we want to provide future artists with the resources and support they need to flourish,” agreed Penny Kemp, president + CEO of The MAX. “We could not be more excited by this opportunity to bring together statewide organizations to do just that.”

This new partnership creates a continuum of instrumental music opportunities for Meridian-area students. The event welcomes students currently enrolled in the Meridian Public School District's program while also offering new pathways for families outside the district to get involved.

On-site registration and information will be available for:

- Community-based group classes and ensembles with the Mississippi Youth Symphony Orchestra
- Private lessons with musicians from the Meridian Symphony Association

Staff will be on-hand to answer questions and process all registrations.

Learn more about Youth Symphony Day at The MAX by visiting www.msarts.org.

About The MAX:

The Mississippi Arts + Entertainment Experience (The MAX) is a one-of-a-kind museum that celebrates Mississippi's creative arts heritage. Through interactive exhibits and diverse programming, The MAX tells the stories of Mississippians who have made significant contributions to the world of art and entertainment.

About the Mississippi Youth Symphony Orchestra (MYSO):

The Mississippi Youth Symphony Orchestra provides a nurturing and challenging environment for talented young musicians to develop their skills and passion for classical music. The MYSO will be recognized for Excellence in Performing Arts at the 2026 Governor's Art Awards.

About the Meridian Symphony Association (MSA):

The Meridian Symphony Association brings the power of live orchestral music to our community, inspiring audiences and nurturing the next generation through music education and outreach. Together, we celebrate creativity, connection, and the shared joy of the arts. Learn more at www.meridianso.org.

About the Meridian Museum of Art (MMA):

The Meridian Museum of Art is a historic institution dedicated to promoting and supporting the visual arts in the Meridian area through exhibitions, educational programs, and community involvement.

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