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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Norwalk Youth Symphony
Board of Directors

Acclaimed violinist Midori to perform, teach in residence with Norwalk Youth Symphony

Internationally renowned violinist Midori will work with the Norwalk Youth Symphony (NYS) through her Orchestra Residencies Program. ORP is a program focusing on active music-making with young musicians, to support the presence and the activities of a youth orchestra, and to advocate for well-rounded music education in an area. During her four-day residency set for May 2020, Midori will be engaged in various activities including a master class for its young musicians, workshops for parents and local teachers, and an advocacy event with state legislature. It will culminate in a performance with the Norwalk Youth Symphony Ensembles.

Known as a visionary artist, activist and educator, Midori launched the Orchestra Residencies Program as a collaborative project to heighten the community presence of youth symphonies and provide meaningful experiences aimed at fostering the development of love for music and nurturing musicians of diverse backgrounds and levels. In keeping with those objectives, the Orchestra Residencies Program strives to inspire and deepen the appreciation of young musicians in classical music while encouraging the larger community to expand support for arts education.

“We are looking forward to working with Midori,” said Jonathan Yates, NYS music director and Principal conductor. “To have our musicians learn and create music with an artist of Midori’s international stature will create an unforgettable experience and will have an impact on the entire area. Midori’s Orchestra Residencies Program is a testament to her dedication to young musicians, helping to ensure classical music thrives and remains the vibrant art form it is for years to come.”

Now in its 63rd year, the Norwalk Youth Symphony has 240 student musicians ranging from the elementary grades to high school who come from 30 towns in Connecticut and New York. With seven ensembles, NYS performs three concerts a year at the Norwalk City Hall with a mission to provide the highest quality of musical experience for the young musicians, regardless of financial need.

A concert violinist for more than 35 years, Midori has performed with symphony orchestras in New York, Chicago, Boston, San Francisco, Berlin and Vienna, among many others. In addition, the Grammy-winning artist has collaborated with numerous leading classical musicians, such as Claudio Abbado, Leonard Bernstein, Yo-Yo Ma and Susanna Mälkki. Some recent or upcoming highlights include a commission from the Library of Congress, and performances with the Boston Symphony, Philadelphia Orchestra, Atlanta Symphony, and Dresden Staatskapelle.

“I look forward to bringing the joy of collaborative music making with Norwalk’s young musicians,” Midori said. “It is an important and meaningful process to learn from each other as we make music together.”

As a teacher, Midori is guided by an approach based on strengthening the bonds between people and music. Currently, she serves on the violin faculty of Philadelphia’s Curtis Institute of Music.

To learn more about Midori’s ORP, and her other outreach programs, Midori & Friends and MUSIC SHARING visit <http://www.gotomidori.com/projects/>.