



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**August 26, 2009**

**CONTACT: Patty Thayer, Marketing Director**

[patty@slosymphony.com](mailto:patty@slosymphony.com)

Ph.543-3533 Fx.781-3534

**Sandi Sigurdson Steps Down as Executive Director of the San Luis Obispo Symphony  
*Respected Local Leader to Accept Position at SLO Chamber of Commerce January 1st***

**SAN LUIS OBISPO, CA**—Since 1994, Sandi Sigurdson has served as the Executive Director of the San Luis Obispo Symphony, overseeing its growth from a fledgling community orchestra to one of the foremost non-profit organizations in San Luis Obispo County. Effective January 1, 2010, Sigurdson has accepted the position of Executive Director of Leadership San Luis Obispo, a county-wide training program operated under the auspices of the SLO Chamber of Commerce.

“Sandi is a particularly good fit for this job,” said David E. Garth, President and CEO of the SLO Chamber of Commerce. “In her symphony role, she proved that she knows how to run a business as well as lead and support creative people.”

According to Sigurdson, “I graduated from Leadership SLO in 1992 and I have long held it in great esteem. Indeed, coaching, mentoring, and organizational counseling are personal skills that I have cultivated and honed and look forward to bringing to a different ‘stage.’”

Reflecting on her history at the Symphony, Sigurdson notes that in 1994, the San Luis Obispo Symphony operated on a budget of less than \$300,000, performed just four concerts per year at local churches, and had a total of 2.5 staff members. Today, the Symphony has a budget of just under \$1.2 million, boasts a music education program that serves over 16,000 children and adults every year, and has performed at Carnegie Hall, the Sydney Opera House and the Walt Disney Concert Hall.

Symphony Board President Michael Zigelman said, “Over the past fifteen years, Sandi has taken Music Director Michael Nowak’s artistic vision for what this orchestra and organization could become and made it happen. And she has made it happen while keeping accessibility, community,

~ more ~

diversity and education at the forefront.

“While we’re sorry to see Sandi go, we also see this as an opportunity. Sandi has left us in great shape organizationally and our next Executive Director can build upon that. The San Luis Obispo Symphony will move into its next 50 years of great music-making artistically strong and organizationally sound thanks in large part to her efforts.”

According to Michael Nowak, “On a personal level, it’s very difficult to imagine this organization without Sandi at the helm. No one I know blends heart, mind, skill, integrity, and administrative expertise better than Sandi Sigurdson. But she leaves us in excellent shape and I am happy her skills as a leader and a mentor can be shared with a broader audience.” “I’ve loved my time with the Symphony and the musicians, and I’m proud of the part I played to help nurture the growth and quality of this orchestra. I will carry the friendships I’ve made there in my heart as I sit in that audience enjoying their work for years to come,” Sigurdson said.

The Symphony’s five member professional staff will continue to work under Sigurdson, while the Board of Directors launches a national search for her successor.

For more information about the San Luis Obispo Symphony, please visit their website at [www.slosymphony.com](http://www.slosymphony.com) or call (805) 543-3533.

###