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## Southland Symphony Orchestra

# Press Release

### Local Symphony to offer “Tribute to Democracy” Concert

Voter Registration Assistance and Pocket Constitutions included

**Ontario, CA, September 20, 2016:** The Southland Symphony Orchestra is presenting a special “Tribute to Democracy” concert for its 2016-17 Season Opening Event. The event will take place on Sunday, October 23, 2016 at 4pm at Bethel Congregational Church, UCC, 536 N Euclid Ave, Ontario CA 91762. The symphony is teaming up with Bethel’s grant winning “Our Faith, Our Vote” team to offer voter registration assistance, and, while supplies last, free pocket constitutions. Dr. Sylvia Lee Mann, founder and conductor of the symphony, and the pastor of Bethel Congregational Church, says that the symphony and the “Our Faith Our Vote” Team at Bethel believe in the urgency and vital necessity of promoting and assisting citizens to vote in this very important general election. She says that It is our freedom and democracy which makes it possible for each person to have a voice, and it is vital that we use our voice and exercise our right and obligation to vote. “We hope to inspire each and every person in our community to be truly invested in learning, understanding, and treasuring the freedom we have worked so hard to achieve. We hope to continue making our society one in which all people are free, and we want to be sure that the people of our communities are registered, ready and empowered to vote. We understand that we are voting to elect leaders and to pass ballot initiatives that will shape our lives together. We are voting to uplift the common good and to better the lives of our neighbors here and around the world.” The concert features music by American composer Aaron Copland, the profound “Lincoln Portrait”, with special guest narrator Rev. Dr. Art Cribbs, of The Interfaith Movement for Human Integrity, and presently pastor of the Los Angeles Filipino United Church of Christ. In addition, musical selections include Carmen Dragon’s exquisite arrangement of “America the Beautiful”, the haunting “Ashokan Farewell” from the PBS series “The Civil War”, and the astounding and energetic “Symphony No.9, From the New World”, by Antonin Dvořák. More information is available on the symphony’s website, [www.southlandssymphony.com](http://www.southlandssymphony.com), and a promotional video for the concert may be viewed here: <https://vimeo.com/183126627> .

**For Immediate Release 8:36 AM Pacific time September 20, 2016**

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**About the Southland Symphony Orchestra:**

The Southland Symphony presented its first concert in Ontario on Sunday, December 11, 2011. The orchestra's founder and director, Dr. Sylvia Lee Mann, who had recently relocated to the area, saw a need and an opportunity to bring symphonic music to the larger Ontario Community, a community which was already embracing arts and culture. Since that first concert, the group has presented more than 30 free concerts for this community. We have presented internationally renowned musicians from all over the globe, performing music of the greatest composers of history, and music of great composers still living today. The Southland Symphony is a non-profit organization, and needs your support to continue presenting these world-class quality concerts! Dr. Mann says of the orchestra, "*Our purpose is to enrich our community by engaging audiences and inspiring a love of music through exciting live symphony performances, innovative programming, and educational outreach.*" We offer opportunities for the community to experience the very best in music, "right in their own back-yards." No long drives to downtown Los Angeles, no expensive parking. Arts and music for our community, in our community. The Southland Symphony Orchestra is a community orchestra, providing fantastic opportunities for qualified musicians to experience and perform live music of the highest quality. We welcome musicians of all ages and from all walks of life: Students and senior citizens, professionals and amateurs: Hobbyist, Professional, Retired. All are welcome. Are you a musician, and would you like a chance to participate? Musician Auditions: The Southland Symphony holds ongoing auditions for NEW musician members. Interested musicians should contact us immediately for an audition, by calling (909) 235-9776 or emailing: [auditions@southlandssymphony.com](mailto:auditions@southlandssymphony.com)

For even more information and to donate to the SSO - visit the symphony website, <http://southlandssymphony.com> .