



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**Monroe Symphony Orchestra Welcomes John Mason Hodges as New Conductor**

The Monroe Symphony Orchestra is proud to announce John Mason Hodges of Memphis, Tennessee, as its Conductor and Music Director for the 2025-2026 season.

Maestro Hodges made a strong impression when he conducted the MSO's 2023 season finale, and now returns to lead the orchestra into an exciting new chapter. A seasoned conductor, composer, and respected lecturer in music and the arts, Hodges brings decades of musical leadership and artistic vision to the MSO.

He studied under Leonard Bernstein, has conducted orchestras in the U.S. and Ukraine, and has spoken internationally on music, aesthetics, and culture. His closer proximity to Monroe allows for greater availability and involvement, helping the MSO continue its tradition of artistic excellence while moving toward more long-term financial sustainability.

"John's experience and unique ability to help audiences grow in their understanding of symphonic music makes him a great fit for our orchestra and greater community," said Jarrod Richey, current MSO Board member and incoming board president.

The MSO is also grateful to Maestro Philip Mann for his artistic leadership over the past two seasons and wishes him the very best in his future endeavors.

The MSO invites patrons, supporters, and community members to attend its Annual Meeting on Tuesday, May 6 at 5:30 PM in the sanctuary of Church of the Redeemer (715 Cypress St, West Monroe, LA). The Board will share important updates and outline the vision for the 2025-2026 season with Maestro Hodges at the helm.

Join us in welcoming Maestro Hodges as we prepare for a vibrant new season with #MyMSO.

**Contact:**

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