



Eastern Connecticut State University

# NEWS

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**For Immediate Release**

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## **Eastern Grad Named Executive Director of the San Diego Chamber Orchestra**

WILLIMANTIC, CT – Tyler Richards Hewes, a 2002 graduate of Eastern Connecticut State University’s Performing Arts program, was recently named executive director of the San Diego Chamber Orchestra. Prior to his appointment, Hewes was the production manager for Mainly Mozart and manager of the Mainly Mozart Orchestra Festival, both in San Diego. Mainly Mozart is an organization that is internationally recognized for providing Southern Californians with opportunities to experience classical music performed by world-class musicians from the nation’s most celebrated orchestras.

During his time with Mainly Mozart, Hewes increased student attendance by 100 percent and assisted in doubling the income raised by the organization’s annual fundraising auction.

As executive director, Hewes' main role will be to work closely with Jung-Ho Pak, artistic director and conductor for the orchestra as he oversees the orchestra's administrative operations and strategic advancement efforts.

Hewes has also worked at various San Diego-area theatres, including the 6<sup>th</sup> at Penn Theatre, the North Coast Repertory Theatre, La Jolla Playhouse, OnState Playhouse and the Actors Alliance of San Diego.

Gary Phillips, president of the orchestra's Board of Directors, says, "We are thrilled to have Tyler on board as we move into a new era with our 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary this year. We are confident that he is just the person we need to build upon our recent successes of sold-out concerts and the very positive 'buzz' surrounding our orchestra."

"Eastern is the best kept secret in Connecticut's education system," says Hewes. "I had a wonderful experience in one-on-one learning from my professors. They have imparted in me a desire to do them and the university proud."

Hewes, formerly of Bethel, CT, married Abigail Keen, a San Diego native, in November 2007. They reside in North Park, CA.

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Eastern Connecticut State University is part of the Connecticut State University (CSU) system and is the state's public liberal arts university. Eastern serves more than 5,000 students each year on its Willimantic campus.

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