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## **National Youth Symphony Orchestra Embarks on International Tour with First-time Sponsorship from American Foundation**

Central News Agency | Reporter: Zhao Jingyu, Taipei, March 15

Founded by Jun Märkl, the director of the National Symphony Orchestra, the National Youth Symphony Orchestra (NYSO) embarks on its third year of intensive training and performances. This year marks the first time the Chenter Foundation from the United States has provided scholarships to participants, bringing together the young generations of Taiwan and America in a grand musical gathering.

The Chenter Foundation, dedicated to improving the education and opportunities of impoverished children through medical system reforms, also focuses on enhancing children's lives through the empathy and compassion fostered by music and performing arts. The foundation believes, "We might not change the world, but we can certainly change the world for one child at a time."

This year, the foundation supports National Symphony Orchestra in Taiwan for the first time, aiming to offer American music students the opportunity to experience global learning and performance opportunities. The foundation will selectively provide scholarships to several American citizens and residents.

According to the National Symphony Orchestra's press release, this year's third edition of the NYSO will be conducted by Jun Märkl, featuring performances of César Franck's "Accursed Huntsman," Manuel de Falla's "Three-Cornered Hat" Suite No. 2, and Nikolai Rimsky-Korsakov's "Capriccio Espagnol." Violinist Lin Pin-Any will also join the tour, presenting Samuel Barber's "Violin Concerto." This year's tour will include performances in Singapore and Thailand for the first time.

As stated on the National Symphony Orchestra's official website, the event costs, covering rehearsal guidance, accommodation during rehearsals and tour, meals, and domestic and international travel expenses, amount to 80,000 New Taiwan Dollars. To support Taiwan's musical talents, the National Symphony Orchestra has been actively seeking scholarships and grants since the end of last year, aiming to assist students in pursuing their musical dreams.

Zhi Yuan Chen, the CEO of the Chen-Yung Foundation, one of this year's supporters, mentioned that he has encountered many music directors of orchestras, but few have shown the same dedication and passion for music promotion as Märkl. "He combines his love for music with his affection for Taiwan. The Chen-Yung Foundation has always supported activities that bring goodness to society, hoping to help create a better, more harmonious world."

Xi Ming Yu, the chairman of the Shine Arts Foundation, which also supports the NYSO scholarships, expressed his willingness to support the NYSO with private sector power. He believes that the orchestra members might develop different ambitions and specialties in the future, "Regardless of the path they choose, the rigorous training and teamwork experienced through the NYSO will become a lifelong gift they can carry with them."

The NYSO will rehearse and perform concerts from July 20 to August 5, with rehearsals taking place at the Miaobei Arts Center. Performance venues include the Miaobei Arts Center Theater, the Concert Hall in National Kaohsiung Center for the Arts (Weiwuying), the Taipei National Concert Hall, and venues in Singapore and Thailand.