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**THE NEW WEST SYMPHONY WILL ANNOUNCE APPOINTMENT OF NEW CEO**

**ONSTAGE AT MASTERPIECE SERIES CONCERT PERFORMANCES APRIL 11th & 12th**

**Announcement Will Coincide with Recognition of the NWS Laby Harmony Project's 15<sup>th</sup> Anniversary**

**Thousand Oaks, CA** — The New West Symphony (NWS) will announce the appointment of **Kiren Bansal** as its new Chief Executive Officer live onstage at its upcoming Masterpiece Series concert performances, *Bernstein, Brahms & Blues*, taking place on **April 11 and 12, 2026**. This announcement follows a four-month nationwide search led by an independent committee to replace longtime CEO Natalia Staneva.



“As New West Symphony enters its next chapter, we are focused on building a forward-looking organization positioned for sustained growth. The search committee was especially impressed by Kiren’s background in innovation and community impact, making her an exceptional fit for the Symphony’s future—we’re delighted to welcome her,” said Anthony Vasquez, NWS Board Chair.

This marks a return to the New West Symphony for Bansal, who served as Director of Business Operations and Development from 2012 to 2016, strengthening systems, modernizing digital infrastructure, and increasing contributed income by 150% while launching initiatives that continue today. Coincidentally, the announcement coincides with the 15-year-anniversary of a NWS program near and dear to her heart: the **Laby Harmony Project**. A tuition-free after-school program that provides music education to Ventura County elementary school students, it creates pathways to success in underserved communities.

In celebration of this milestone, the New West Symphony League is hosting a “ukulele drive,” inviting audience members to contribute gently used instruments to replace those to which the students recently lost access. Donations are also welcomed, in recognition of the anniversary as well as the Symphony’s new leadership.

Bansal brings a broad spectrum of global experience to her new role. She is a social impact strategist with more than 20 years of cross-sector leadership experience across the arts, environmental, human rights, and communications. She has held leadership roles within nonprofit organizations, such as Interfaith Center on Corporate Responsibility (NY), Frugal AI Hub at Cambridge (Cambridge, England), Population Media Center, United Way Worldwide (VA), and Assistance League of Los Angeles (CA). Her consulting work focused on fraction leadership, strategy and project management to help purpose-driven organizations streamline systems and processes for greater efficiency and impact.

Bansal holds a master’s degree in global affairs from George Mason University and a bachelor’s degree in environmental studies from the University of Southern California. She also recently completed a master’s degree in social innovation at the University of Cambridge-Judge Business School in England, where her research explored the impacts of sociopolitical pressures on corporate responsibility professionals. While at the Cambridge Center for Social Innovation, Bansal explored innovative approaches to entrepreneurship, focusing on how cross-sector collaborations drive systemic change to address complex global challenges in resource-constrained environments.

In her role as CEO, Bansal will leverage her deep knowledge of NWS, along with her professional experience and academic background, to guide the organization’s strategic direction. She is particularly interested in the intersection of music, social movements, storytelling, and performance as forces that drive social progress and reflect the human experience.

“In its next chapter, the New West Symphony has the opportunity to lead as a community change agent, advancing connection and creativity across Ventura and Los Angeles counties,” said Bansal. “The Harmony Project embodies this vision and rejoining the Symphony during its 15th anniversary makes this moment especially meaningful.”

The announcement will be made live onstage at the concert, signaling a new chapter for the Symphony as it continues to grow its artistic excellence and community impact under the direction of GRAMMY® award-winning conductor and music director, Michael Christie.

## **Concert Information**

*Bernstein, Brahms & Blues*

**Saturday, April 11, 2026 at 7 PM** -- Bank of America Performing Arts Center, Thousand Oaks

**Sunday, April 12, 2026 at 3 PM** -- Rancho Campana Performing Arts Center, Camarillo

Michael Christie, conductor  
Tai Murray, violin

W.C. Handy | “St. Louis Blues”  
Ravel | Blues for String Orchestra, arr. Miloradovic  
Bernstein | *West Side Story* Suite for Violin and Orchestra, arr. Bateman  
Brahms | Symphony No. 1 in C minor, Op. 68

Brahms and Bernstein’s works evoke extraordinary emotional depth with spectacular instrumental color.

Violinist Tai Murray, who made her concert debut with the Chicago Symphony at age nine, is considered one of America’s foremost virtuosos. This is a program where Broadway meets the symphonic tradition — bold, beautiful, and unforgettable.

**Tickets** are available at <https://newwestsymphony.org/2026-masterpiece-series/bernstein-brahms-blues/> or call **(866) 776-8400**. Use code **26CEO** for a **25% ticket discount**.

## ***About the New West Symphony***

The New West Symphony inspires passion for symphonic music through live performances and education initiatives that engage and enrich our diverse audiences. Now in its 31st season, the New West Symphony draws its players from the rich talent pool of professional, accomplished Southern California-area musicians. Performances are held at the Bank of America Performing Arts Center in Thousand Oaks and the Rancho Campana Performing Arts Center in Camarillo.

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