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The Acadiana Symphony

Orchestra enters the 2004-05 performance season looking for a new executive director. Again.

By Marie Elizabeth de Malw

The Acadiana Symphony Orchestra has appointed Tim Bennet as its executive director — the fourth person to serve in that role since 1999.

Although Bennet, former director of the ASO, has only one year left on his contract, he will step into the executive director role at the beginning of the 2004-05 season. Bennet will remain as music director until the orchestra begins its search for its next music director.

Bennet says he's been asked to return to the orchestra because he's the only candidate who has the experience needed to lead the orchestra.

The orchestra plans to interview several candidates for the position and announce its decision next month.

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 varios Bergman (left) and Maestro  
Mamulso smile at the future of the Acadia-  
nana Symphony Orchestra. Bergman is the  
current executive director and will be the  
music director for ASO, which has had four  
executive directors since 1999.

"He is not an outsider, which is a big plus,  
especially in this transitional period," says  
Maestro Mamulso. "He's bringing new  
energy and enthusiasm to the orchestra.

Education. Bergman became the first music  
director of the Gulf Coast Symphony Youth  
Orchestra in Mobile in 2001, and continues to  
fulfill his duties for that organization.

"It was a wonderful job as a community  
director," says Bergman. "It was a great  
opportunity for me."

Bergman’s son, Leif, will join the orchestra  
as a conductor. Bergman started with the ASO  
in February as the director of its teaching arm, the  
Acadiana Music Summer Seminar.

"I'm excited to be a part of the orchestra,"  
says Leif. "I think it's a great opportunity to  
learn from some of the best conductors in the  
country."