

OREGON SYMPHONY

JOB DESCRIPTION

Assistant Conductor

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| EXEMPT STATUS: | SALARIED (EXEMPT) |
| REMOTE HYBRID ELIGIBLE: | NO |
| DEPARTMENT: | PROGRAMMING |
| REPORTS TO: | MUSIC DIRECTOR AND VP OF ARTISTIC PLANNING |
| DIRECT REPORTS: | 0+ |
| EFFECTIVE/LAST UPDATED: | MARCH 1, 2025 |

POSITION SUMMARY:

The Assistant Conductor supports the artistic vision of the Oregon Symphony as defined by the Music Director. This role provides artistic leadership to the orchestra during rehearsals and concerts while covering and conducting various performances, including Classical, Pops, Youth, Film, Contemporary Popular Artist Specials, and other assigned concerts. The Assistant Conductor plays an integral role in developing education and community programs, serving as a public representative of the Symphony, engaging with students, educators, media, and donors.

ESSENTIAL DUTIES & RESPONSIBILITIES:

Covering Duties:

- Serve as cover/assistant conductor for all rehearsals and performances (including runouts) of the Classical Series and Classical Specials. Covering other program types may occasionally be assigned.
- Be prepared to step in and conduct rehearsals and performances at a moment's notice.
- Provide feedback and assistance to conductors, soloists and orchestra members regarding artistic matters such as balance, intonation, and dynamics.

Conducting Responsibilities:

- Rehearse and conduct assigned concerts, including:
 - All Youth, Education, and Family concerts
 - Select Film, Pops, New Music, Popular Specials, and other community and special performances, as assigned.
- Collaborate with the Artistic Planning and Education/Community Engagement teams to develop programs for Family, Youth/Education, and Community concerts.

Additional Artistic & Administrative Duties:

- Contribute to the day-to-day operations of the Oregon Symphony, including education and community engagement initiatives, board and staff meetings, and fundraising events.
- Serve as a public representative for the Symphony's educational and youth programs, engaging with students, educators, and other stakeholders.
- Act as a musical consultant for recordings, broadcasts, or livestreaming projects as needed.
- Review and advise on new scores and recordings, providing artistic input as requested.
- Participate in communications, marketing, and fundraising activities to enhance audience engagement.

QUALIFICATIONS:

Education & Experience:

- Bachelor's degree or equivalent professional training from a college, conservatory, or university.
- Professional orchestral conducting experience, preferably at the symphony orchestra level.
- Experience accompanying films is highly desirable.

Technical Skills & Knowledge:

- Superb musicianship, including proficiency in reading and interpreting full orchestra scores and ability to analyze complex modern scores and conduct mixed meters with accuracy.
- Acute aural skills to detect performance discrepancies between the orchestra and the printed score.
- Excellent conducting skills, including readily understandable baton technique and rehearsal methods that manage time efficiently and thoughtfully.
- Extensive knowledge of standard orchestral repertory and Popular music arrangements.
- Familiarity with and appreciation of Popular musical styles of the 20th and 21st centuries.
- Broad understanding of professional orchestra operations and a union work environment
- Proficiency with internet research and communication tools.

Communication & Interpersonal Skills:

- Excellent communication skills in fluent English, including strong public speaking and audience engagement abilities.
- Diplomacy, professionalism, and interpersonal skills essential for collaboration with orchestra members, guest artists and staff with a broad range of personalities, along with a deep appreciation for their needs.
- Ability to inspire trust and respect through high ethical standards, integrity, and a professional demeanor.
- Composure under pressure, adaptability, and a sense of humor.

Additional Requirements:

- Must hold or acquire a valid Oregon or Washington driver's license
- Must be authorized to work in the United States.

WORK ENVIRONMENT

The Associate Conductor is a full-time member of the Oregon Symphony staff, receiving an annual salary and benefits. They must maintain residence in the Portland metropolitan area and must be able to work evenings and weekends as required. Guest conducting engagements may be pursued with prior approval, subject to prorated salary adjustments for scheduling conflicts.

This job description outlines the primary responsibilities of the position but is not an exhaustive list. The employee may be asked to perform additional duties as necessary to support organizational and artistic goals.