

THE WILLIAMSBURG SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA MUSIC DIRECTOR POSTING

The Williamsburg Symphony Orchestra (WSO), located in Williamsburg, Virginia, solicits applications for the position of Music Director. The person selected will assume the position in the 2020-2021 season, after a guest conducting audition during the 2019-2020 season.

About the WSO

The Williamsburg Symphony Orchestra is a jewel in the cultural landscape of the Colonial Capital. Entering its 35th anniversary season, the professional orchestra is known for the outstanding caliber of its musicians, who are drawn from the top orchestras in the region, and its guest artists, most of whom have graced concert halls around the world. The WSO maintains close ties to its community, which includes a loyal audience of retirees and other locals, as well as visiting tourists. Its goal is to entertain, inspire, and educate diverse audiences through musical excellence. To that end, the orchestra performs a classical subscription series, a variety of pops concerts, and educational concerts each season. The WSO is continually expanding its repertoire and experimenting with new ways to suffuse the region with its music.

The Position

The Music Director reports directly to the President of the Board of Trustees. S/he is responsible for developing the orchestra's artistic programs, shaping its image, and ensuring its cultural impact on the community. S/he is expected to inspire the musicians and elicit their highest levels of artistic nuance and musicianship. S/he is also expected to help grow the reputation of the orchestra within the community and beyond. As a local arts leader, the Music Director will have an active role in the orchestra's outreach, fundraising, and educational activities. S/he will work closely and collaboratively with the Board of Directors, the Executive Director, and staff to carry out these responsibilities.

Responsibilities

Artistic

- Responsible for the artistic planning, operation, and development of the orchestra
- Plans the concert season and other special concerts as agreed upon, selecting the repertoire and guest artists in consultation with the Executive Director
- Ensures adherence to the organizational budget by attention to detail in concert planning and rehearsal preparation
- Determines the stage configuration for concerts and communicates with principal musicians to establish seating order
- Provides pre-concert lectures or enhances the listening of the audience by giving short educational comments during the concert
- Conducts rehearsals and performances
- Participates in the audition process and selection of artistic personnel

- Manages musicians by monitoring their performance and appropriately communicating artistic praise or concerns
- Maintains an inspiring and positive atmosphere within the orchestra
- Builds and nourishes a strong relationship with the audience
- Enhances the quality, the image, and the reputation of the symphony

Administrative

- Participates in the ongoing development of organizational goals and in the planning of the annual budget
- Maintains regular contact with the President of the Board of Trustees and the Executive Director and attends board meetings as required.
- Works collaboratively with organization staff and our affiliate organizations, the Williamsburg Youth Orchestras and WSO League

Community

- Assists the Executive Director, the President, and other board members in raising support for the orchestra
- Enhances the orchestra's connection to the community by participating in local events and fundraisers
- Represents the orchestra in the media and other social engagements
- Builds and maintains relationships with other artistic and cultural organizations and civic groups in the area

Ideal Candidate Profile

- Exceptional musicianship and conducting skills
- Knowledge of a broad range of repertoire, symphonic and other
- Strong interpersonal and leadership skills
- A record of distinguished performance at the national and/or international level
- Marked passion for engaging with audiences and encouraging an interest in innovative programming
- Experience with outreach, audience development, and fundraising
- Strong penchant for collaboration
- Excellent oral and written communication skills
- Vision, passion, and an ability to inspire
- Unwavering integrity

Williamsburg, Virginia

The city of Williamsburg, Virginia has a population of 15,000, with an additional 140,000 people residing in the surrounding areas of York and James City Counties. Williamsburg is home to Colonial Williamsburg, the world's largest living history museum, and the prestigious College of William and Mary. Both of these impressive institutions have earned the community national acclaim and countless visitors to the area each year. In addition,

the region boasts other national heritage sites like Jamestown and Yorktown, which add to the profusion of culture and history. Williamsburg appeared in *Southern Living* magazine's "The South's Best Small Towns 2018," and *Kiplinger* magazine recently identified it in its "Ten Great Places to Retire for Your Health." Williamsburg is conveniently nestled between three urban centers, Richmond to the west, Virginia Beach to the east, and Washington, D.C., two hours due north. The city's tight-knit local community, its natural beauty and cleanliness, and its many cultural and everyday amenities provide an enviable quality of life.

Required Application Components

- Personal letter of interest with a link to conducting samples (preferably from a concert and a rehearsal) using YouTube, Vimeo, or another video-sharing site
- Short biographical statement
- Resume/CV
- Three professional references
- Applications must be received by Monday, September 10, 2018.

Please submit your application to williamsburgsymphony@gmail.com with your name in the subject line. **Your documents should all be clearly titled with your first and last name in a PDF format.**