

THE METROPOLITAN SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA



MUSIC DIRECTOR POSITION ANNOUNCEMENT

SUMMARY

The Metropolitan Symphony Orchestra (MSO) is seeking applicants for the position of Music Director.

The Music Director is responsible for the artistic direction of the orchestra, including programming and conducting rehearsals and concerts as well as overseeing audition processes. This individual will work in close consultation with the Executive Director, Board of Directors, and members of the Orchestra within the limits set by the budget and in accordance with the terms of the working agreements with musicians and guest artists. The Music Director also attends MSO Board meetings as a non-voting member of the Board.

MSO rehearses Tuesday evenings from 7:00pm to 9:30pm at Central Lutheran Church in downtown Minneapolis.

This is a part-time position reporting to the MSO Board President.

Annual compensation: \$21,000-23,000 (0.25 FTE)

ABOUT THE METROPOLITAN SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

For over forty years, the Metropolitan Symphony Orchestra (MSO) has been recognized as the premier volunteer orchestra in the Upper Midwest, presenting world-class symphonic performances free of charge to audiences throughout the Twin Cities in Minnesota, United States. Our core values are to invite new and diverse audiences to share the power and energy of live symphony concerts in convenient neighborhood venues, to perform the full spectrum of symphonic music and encourage artistic growth in our volunteer players, and to work with host organizations to present and promote symphonic performances in their communities.

Although all of our musicians perform without payment, all play at a very high level. Current musicians include concertmasters and principal players in other area orchestras, substitutes with the Minnesota Orchestra, members of regional orchestras, and composers. Former MSO musicians have also won positions in the Minnesota Orchestra, Minnesota Opera Orchestra, North Carolina Symphony, and Buffalo Philharmonic.

Minnesota's Pulitzer Prize winning composer Dominick Argento was the orchestra's Composer Laureate and the MSO has premiered his works as well as those of others, including Polina Nazaykinskaya, Jocelyn Hagen, Michael Daugherty, Victor Zupanc, Carol Barnett, Osmo Vänskä, and William Bolcom. In addition to new music, the MSO also gives inspiring performances of some of the most difficult works from the traditional canon including Mahler, Bruckner, and Shostakovich. The Star Tribune lauded the orchestra's performance of Mahler's Second Symphony as "resounding and transformative."

The MSO's collaborative partners include The Minnesota Chorale, VocalEssence, Clara Osowski, Kevin Kling, Maria Jette, and many other Twin Cities-based soloists. In addition, each year the Orchestra engages at least one of its own members as a concerto soloist. The MSO is also committed to engaging new participants in the orchestral experience and has collaborated with Chadwick ("Niles") Philips, North Community High School in Minneapolis, and Border CrosSing.

Performance videos can be accessed on our website, msomn.org



QUALIFICATIONS

- Experience leading high-caliber orchestral ensembles in rehearsals and performances with strong baton technique and clear, respectful communication
- Significant musical skill including an acute ear for orchestral intonation, balance, color, sight-reading and transposition
- Passion for working with a community orchestra membership that includes musicians of varying backgrounds and abilities (professional and amateur)
- Proven ability for developing imaginative and diverse programs from a variety of time periods, pieces both familiar and new to the audience, and representing a range of composer diversity
- Basic knowledge of nonprofit organizations with an understanding and respect for the volunteer work of the board, musicians, and other community volunteers
- Effective writing and public speaking skills, including the creation of program notes



JOB RESPONSIBILITIES

- Program, lead rehearsals for, and conduct at least 5 concerts each season, including engagement of guest artists as needed
- Educate concert audiences with spoken commentary and written program notes
- Collaborate with section Principals and members of the Players Committee to solicit and receive input regarding repertoire, rehearsal planning and effectiveness, and musician needs and feedback
- Determine a suitable number of rehearsals as appropriate for each concert
- Engage other community arts organizations and initiatives, when possible and appropriate
- Work with the Executive Director and Board to foster a shared vision for the long-term artistic and financial health of the Orchestra
- Communicate with the orchestra staff including the Executive Director, Personnel Manager, Librarian and Stage Manager in a timely and effective manner
- Take an active role in the promotion and development of the orchestra, including public appearances, audience and donor cultivation, and fundraising activities
- Lead scheduling and adjudication of auditions for new orchestra members as needed to maintain a full musician roster
- Select winner(s) for the MSO's annual concerto competition (open to rostered members of the MSO)
- Attend Board of Directors meetings (in a non-voting capacity)

APPLICATION SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS

Please send the following materials, in one email message, to MDSearch@msomn.org. PDF format is preferred.

- Resume
- Cover Letter
- Repertoire list, indicating which works have been performed and/or studied
- Contact information for 2-3 references familiar with your work, including at least 1 principal player musician who has performed in an ensemble under your leadership (we will contact you before reaching out to these individuals)
- A link to at least one video demonstrating your work as a conductor

Priority will be given to applications received by February 29, 2024. Applications that are incomplete or received after February 29, may be considered at MSO's discretion. Applications will be reviewed beginning March 1, 2024, with interviews to follow. Finalists will be invited to conduct one or more concerts during the 2024-2025 season.

The Metropolitan Symphony Orchestra is an Equal Opportunity Employer. All qualified applicants will receive consideration for employment without regard to race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, or national origin.