Jan Feldman

Executive Director
Lawyers for Creative Arts

Jan Feldman became Executive Director of LCA in May 2014. He has been a member of LCA's Executive Committee where he led the organization's fundraising efforts for most of the last decade. Before he joined the LCA Board of Directors, Mr. Feldman held board president positions on several non-profit arts boards, including the People's Music School, Arts Bridge and Mostly Music Chicago. He assisted those organizations in navigating challenging funding periods as well as transitions in their staff leadership.

Mr. Feldman is a 1981 graduate of Northwestern University Law School and has been a partner in several prominent Chicago law firms including Phelan, Pope & John, Holleb & Coff and, most recently, Perkins Coie. His legal practice concentrated on civil litigation in construction and high technology disputes.

Rachel Ford

Executive Director
Knoxville Symphony Orchestra

Rachel Ford has served as Executive Director of the Knoxville Symphony Orchestra since 2007. Previously she served as Executive Director for the Waterloo-Cedar Falls Symphony Orchestra in Iowa, as Public Relations Coordinator for the Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra and in the marketing department at the University Musical Society in Ann Arbor, Michigan.

Rachel is a graduate of the League of American Orchestras' Orchestra Management Fellowship Program, having worked with the Kalamazoo, Harrisburg, Pittsburgh, Fort Worth and Syracuse symphonies. She also holds a Bachelor of Music degree in Piano Performance from the University of Michigan.

Rachel serves on the Boards of the Rotary Club of Knoxville, the Arts & Culture Alliance of Greater Knoxville and the Joy of Music School. She is a member of the Executive Women’s Association and is a Junior League of Knoxville sustainer. A graduate of Leadership Knoxville, Rachel received a YWCA Tribute to Women award in 2013.
Joshua Simmonds

Executive Director
Percussive Arts Society

Joshua Simmonds is currently Executive Director of the Percussive Arts Society, one of the largest percussion organizations in the world with over 5,000 members. As Executive Director of PAS, Joshua oversees its annual convention, PASIC, 80 PAS chapters throughout the world, 17 standing committees, and Rhythm! Discovery Center, an interactive drum and percussion museum in Indianapolis, Indiana.

Prior to joining PAS, Joshua was the Executive Director of the Chicago Youth Symphony Orchestras where he worked from 2003 - 2016. During his tenure, CYSO more than doubled its programs, built strong relationships with world-class composers resulting in numerous world and local premieres, and initiated groundbreaking artistic collaborations, including performances with Ben Folds, My Morning Jacket, The Second City, My Brightest Diamond, the Chicago Bulls, and multiple performances at the legendary rock festival Lollapalooza.

Joshua’s passion for percussion was always at the forefront of his work at CYSO. During his tenure at CYSO, the organization built one of the largest youth steel pan programs in the Midwest and performed multiple times with the Blue Man Group in Chicago’s Millennium Park. He engaged Third Coast Percussion on multiple occasions including a 2014 year-in-residence resulting in a New Music USA grant for a video recording of David T Little’s “Radiant Child for Percussion Quartet and Orchestra,” and secured Glenn Kotche - solo percussionist, composer, and drummer of Wilco - as CYSO’s 2016-2017 Composer in Residence.

Joshua currently sits on the Youth Orchestra Division Board of the League of American Orchestras, where he serves as Co-Chair of the PR Committee, is an advisor for Music For All’s National Orchestra Festival, sits on the National Advisory Board - Sewanee Summer Music Center, and is very active in both local and national arts advocacy.

He holds a Master of Arts in Arts Management from American University in Washington, DC, and a Bachelor of Arts in Percussion from California State University, Long Beach.
Lynne Sorkin

Director of Human Resources
Chicago Symphony Orchestra

Lynne Sorkin has served as the Director of Human Resources for the Chicago Symphony Orchestra since September of 1999. She holds an MBA in Human Resources Management from DePaul University, and a Bachelor of Science degree in Health Administration from the University of Illinois-Urbana. She spent the majority of her career managing Human Resources departments at several area hospitals, and subsequently headed a Human Resources consulting practice prior to accepting her current position.

Lynne has been a panelist and featured speaker at Northwestern University’s Medill School of Journalism, Media, and Integrated Marketing Communications, and for Northwestern Career Advancement’s “How to Get Hired in Arts Administration” symposium. Lynne volunteers as a mentor for the Jewish Employment Network (JEN), assisting senior level unemployed professionals with their job searches and giving presentations throughout the community on this topic.

Lynne has created and performed her one-woman show—vocals, guitar and piano—at several long-term care facilities in the Chicago area.

Lynne is a vocalist and soloist with Kol Zimrah (The Jewish Community Singers of Greater Chicago) and the Kol Zimrah Chamber Singers. She has served as Kol Zimrah’s Board Treasurer and is a founding member. The 65-voice choir has performed with the Chicago Symphony Orchestra under the baton of Riccardo Muti, at the North American Jewish Choral Festival, the American Conference of Cantors Convention, and Jewish United Fund fundraisers, as well as at many local synagogues. Kol Zimrah’s Chamber Choir performs annual Chanukah concerts at the Selfhelp Home, and was featured live on WFLD television and on WFMT in Chicago.

Lynne was a soloist, assistant conductor, and choir member for Congregation Am Chai’s High Holiday choir (Hoffman Estates) and served as conductor/pianist for Congregation Hakafa’s High Holiday choir (Glencoe). She is a former piano teacher, plays the guitar, and performs locally in musical theater.