

Agenda

2025 National Conference Agenda – Composers

All times below are Mountain Time. Agenda content subject to change.

Constituent Liaison: Caen Thomason-Redus, Vice President, Inclusion and Learning
caentr@americanorchestras.org, 646 822 4064

Wednesday, June 11, 2025

8:00am-12:00pm [Tech Fair](#)

1:00pm-2:30pm **Constituency Meeting Block 1**

1:00pm-1:30pm **Welcome**

Reconnect with friends and make new acquaintances as we share what issues are top of mind and what we look to gain from this time together.

*Moderators: **Kate Dreyfuss**, Interim Co-Executive Director, Communications Director, New Music USA; **Scott Winship**, Interim Co-Executive Director, Director of Grantmaking Programs, New Music USA*

1:30pm-2:30pm **Getting the Most Out of Orchestral Collaborations**

The partnership between composer and performer is an art form all its own. The complexity can grow significantly when you expand that partnership to include the numerous and varied stakeholders of an orchestra. Professionals with extensive experience on all sides of that collaboration will share their insights, recommendations, and anecdotes regarding what it takes to achieve a successful and rewarding result.

*Moderator: **Melissa Ngan**, President & CEO, American Composers Orchestra*

*Speakers: **Juan Pablo Contreras**, Board Member, New Music USA; **Rei Hotoda**, Music Director, Fresno Philharmonic; **Jessica Ruiz**, Director, KD Schmid; **Curtis Stewart**, Artistic Director, American Composers Orchestra*

Thursday, June 12, 2025

9:00am-10:15am **Recommended Workshop**

- [Follow the Music for Systemic Change](#)

3:30pm-5:30pm

Constituency Meeting Block 2

3:30pm-4:30pm

Getting the Most Out of Youth Orchestra Collaborations

Collaboration with youth orchestras offers composers an extensive new range of opportunities and priorities. Increased rehearsal can lengthen timelines but it also provides the chance for valuable workshopping and revision. Working with young musicians can be incredibly inspiring but also comes with additional responsibilities. A panel of composers and youth orchestra professionals will discuss how writing for youth orchestras can be a powerful experience for all involved.

*Moderator: **Melissa Ngan**, President & CEO, American Composers Orchestra*

*Speakers: **Clarice Assad**, Composer and Pianist; **John Kilkenny**, Executive Director, New York Youth Symphony; **Quinn Mason**, Composer and Conductor; **Barbara Scowcroft**, Music Director, Utah Youth Symphony*

4:30pm-5:30pm

Keeping in Touch

For many composers, receiving a second or third commission can be just as challenging as receiving a first, with the development and maintenance of human relationships being a key factor toward continued career trajectory. Hear from a few of today's leading composers as they share the ways in which composer advancement infrastructures got them "in the door", and how their ability to develop and maintain relationships with professionals within the field has kept them in the conversation.

*Moderator: **Loki Karuna**, Executive Director, American Composers Forum*

*Speakers: **Stacy Garrop**, Composer; **Angel Lam**, Composer; **Leanna Primiani**, Composer and Conductor*

Friday, June 13, 2025

10:15am-11:45am

Constituency Meeting Block 3

10:15am-11:15am

The Music and the Maker

Music may be the primary mode of communication for a composer, but it is not the only one. Thinking about your personal narrative, curating your profile, and being able to confidently, genuinely, and concisely discuss your work with others are all important aspects of growing a career. Hear about what has worked well for others and be prepared to delve into your own professional presentation.

*Moderator: **Melissa Ngan**, President & CEO, American Composers Orchestra*

11:15am-11:45am **Final Reflection and Staying Connected**

We'll conclude Conference with a little time to reflect on what stood out to us this week, and how our discussions and experiences have affected how we want to pursue our craft in the year ahead.

*Moderator: **Vanessa Rose**, Chief Executive Officer, American Composers Forum*

Composer Constituency Meetings are made possible by generous grants from The Amphion Foundation, Inc., The Aaron Copland Fund for Music, and the Virginia B. Toulmin Foundation.

Notice: It is important to keep in mind antitrust rules governing competition that apply to this group discussion. While the agenda for this group includes discussion of a variety of issues that are crucial to orchestras' planning and strategies, the goal is not to agree on a single approach to these issues. With the benefit of analysis and discussion, each orchestra will be able to decide independently what course of action is best for its own organization. We ask you to avoid comments that relate to your orchestra's current or future plans for *ticket or event pricing (actual ticket prices, discount amounts)*, *bargaining (including collective bargaining agreements or with vendors)*, or *compensation*.