

# Agenda

## **2025 National Conference Agenda – Conductors**

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

Constituent Liaison: David Styers, Director of Learning and Leadership Programs

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The following agenda describes sessions specifically designed for the above-mentioned constituents. For a full listing of Conference events and larger sessions, please visit

<https://leagueconference.org/full-schedule>.

### **Wednesday, June 11, 2025**

**9:30am-12:00pm**      **Utah Symphony Rehearsal**

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

#### **Welcome and Introductions**

*Speakers: **John Devlin**, Music Director & Conductor, Wheeling Symphony;  
**Julius Williams**, Conductor and Music Director, Berklee Contemporary  
Symphony Orchestra*

#### **Conversation with Marin Alsop**

***Marin Alsop**, Music Director Laureate, Baltimore Symphony Orchestra;  
Principal Guest Conductor, The Philadelphia Orchestra; Chief Conductor,  
Ravinia Festival; Music Director, National Orchestral Institute + Festival at  
the University of Maryland; and Director of Graduate Conducting; Johns  
Hopkins University's Peabody Institute*

### **Thursday, June 12, 2025**

**3:30pm-5:30pm**      **Constituency Meeting Block 2: Visit to Maurice Abravanel Studio**

OFFSITE - The University of Utah, 1375 Presidents' Cir, Salt Lake City, UT 84112

Buses will depart the Hyatt Regency at 170 S W Temple St, Salt Lake City at **3:30 p.m.**

Housed in the McKay Music Library at the University of Utah, the studio replicates the space in Maurice Abravanel's home and contains his conducting scores, books, personal memorabilia, photographs and his Steinway piano. In the words of Maurice Abravanel's widow, **Carolyn Abravanel** (who will join us for this tour), the studio provides . . .

"a space for musicians and students [who, hopefully, through] sitting in his chair and brushing his keys will gain a greater breadth of understanding of music and in some real way be touched by Maurice's great love and compassion for the art of music, its performance and instruction, to which he dedicated his life."

The internationally renowned maestro Maurice Abravanel conducted the Utah Symphony for more than 30 years, transforming it from a community orchestra into a well-respected, professional ensemble. Thanks to his efforts, Salt Lake's Symphony Hall, now named Abravanel Hall, opened in 1979. Before accepting the position in Utah to build his own symphony, Abravanel had established a remarkable career, including conducting great orchestras such as the Berlin State, Paris, Sydney, and Melbourne Operas. In 1936, he became the youngest conductor in the history of New York's Metropolitan Opera. Abravanel turned down a five-year contract and considerable salary with Radio City Music Hall to come to Utah. Additional information is available in his [Full Biography](#) and at <https://music.utah.edu/mckay-music-library/abravanel/index.php>

*Prof. Lisa Marie Chaufy, Director & Adj. Assoc. Professor, McKay Music Library, School of Music, The University of Utah*

*Complimentary round-trip busing will be provided from the Hyatt Regency Salt Lake City*

## **Friday, June 13, 2025**

**10:15am-11:45am    Constituency Meeting Block 3**

### **Innovations in Orchestra Auditions and Programming Roundtable**

#### **Boulanger Initiative's Redefining the Canon**

The last several years have seen exciting progress in more equitable programming in concert halls across the country. However, audition processes remain one of the last bastions of a lack of diversity in classical music. Boulanger Initiative's Redefining the Canon addresses this by partnering with orchestras across the nation to update their audition excerpt lists to incorporate excerpts from underrepresented composers. An unprecedented initiative, Redefining the Canon breaks down barriers and incorporates new and diverse programming, helping orchestras do substantive, meaningful, and foundational work to diversify their programs and their musician pool.

*Dr. Laura Colgate, Executive & Artistic Director, Boulanger Initiative;  
Kathryn Radakovich, Director of Learning and Engagement, Boulanger Initiative*

**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*.