

Agenda

2025 National Conference Agenda – Musicians

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

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The following agenda describes sessions specifically designed for the above-mentioned constituents. For a full listings of Conference events and larger sessions, please visit <https://leagueconference.org/full-schedule>.

Wednesday, June 11, 2025

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

1:00pm-1:30pm Welcome

Reconnect with friends and make new acquaintances. We'll begin by getting to know who's in the room, where we come from, what our professional priorities are, and what we might hope to get out of our Conference experience.

1:30pm-2:30pm Boulanger Initiative

The classical music industry is making strides with regard to programming a greater diversity of composers, including more works by women and gender-marginalized composers. But as recent reports by the Institute for Composer Diversity and League of American Orchestras show, some of those gains have been lost. Take a deep dive with Boulanger Initiative during this discussion to better understand these trends and the role you can play in addressing them on stage and behind the scenes.

*Speakers: **Laura Colgate**, Executive and Artistic Director, Boulanger Initiative; **Kathryn Cruz**, Director of Learning and Engagement, Boulanger Initiative*

Thursday, June 12, 2025

3:30pm-5:30pm Constituency Meeting Block 2

3:30pm-4:30pm Side Hustles and Portfolio Careers

Being a musician can be an all-encompassing venture, and yet so many do so much more! Education, arts administration, consulting, and

launching your own business are just a few of the side hustles and career components that will be shared by this panel of professional musicians from around the country. Attendees are also encouraged to bring their own questions and examples.

*Speakers: **Scott Faulkner**, Principal Bass, Reno Phil and Reno Chamber Orchestra; **Lorin Green**, Community Relations Manager, Seattle Symphony; **Bill Neri**, Director of Ensemble Advancement, Sphinx Organization; **Jessica Phillips**, Second Clarinet, Metropolitan Opera Orchestra; **Mercedes Smith**, Principal Flute, Utah Symphony Utah Opera*

4:30pm-5:30pm

Self-Care for Musicians

What if doing what you love still feels like work? Musician lifestyles can be physically, emotionally, and even logistically demanding. Maintaining the energy and motivation to give your best every time is most attainable with thoughtful and sustainable self-care. Hear about practices used by a variety of music professionals and add to the conversation with your own questions and success stories.

*Moderator: **antonio c. cuyler, Ph.D.**, Professor of Music, Entrepreneurship & Leadership, University of Michigan*

Speakers: TBD

Friday, June 13, 2025

10:15am-11:45am

Constituency Meeting Block 3

10:15am-11:15am

What's in a name?

The title "Musician" means many things to many people. What does it mean to be an orchestral musician? What skills are required, and how do we train, hire, and evaluate for them? If a position involves leadership responsibilities, should those be specified and should professional development be offered? If education or community work is involved, should that be stated, incentivized and supported? This discussion will focus on how musicians and orchestras can best define and support the expansive role of "musician". Learn about current examples from across the country and share your own perspective and experiences.

*Moderator: **Sam Andrew**, Manager, Inclusion and Learning, League of American Orchestras*

11:15am-11:45am

Final Reflection and Staying Connected

As we return home, are we thinking any differently about our careers, our priorities, or our music? Do we have new connections we want to maintain or new projects we want to undertake? We will end with a small

amount of time to share any new reflections, intentions, or even questions that will inform the year ahead.

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*.