

Agenda

2025 National Conference Agenda – Youth Orchestra Division

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

Constituent Liaison: Heather Briere, Director, Learning and Leadership Programs
hbriere@americanorchestras.org, 646 822 4019

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

8:00am-12:00pm **Tech Fair**

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

1:00pm-1:30pm **Welcome, Annual Meeting, and Voice Your Hot Topics**

*Moderator: **Lindsey Nova**, Executive Director, Three Rivers Young Peoples Orchestra*

1:30pm-2:30pm **Great Expectations**

Across the country, youth orchestras face shifting expectations of commitment and attendance from students and parents. Join your colleagues for a session breaking down solutions for attendance policies that work and programming strategies that keep students coming back for more!

*Speakers: **Helen Cha-Pyo**, Artistic Director & Principal Conductor, New Jersey Youth Symphony; **Troy Peters**, Music Director, Youth Orchestras of San Antonio*

Thursday, June 12, 2025

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

3:30pm-4:30pm **Strategic Alliances: Harmonizing Efforts for Youth Orchestras**

Explore the power of strategic partnerships for youth orchestras, with a focus on forming, vetting, and maintaining alliances codified by formal agreements like MOUs. Happy and healthy relationships with peer organizations can benefit youth orchestras of any/all sizes. Gain insights

from seasoned administrators on how alliances and partnerships can expand student opportunities, improve service deliverability, enhance community impact and learning outcomes, and/or foster effective resource sharing.

*Moderator: **Randy Wong**, President & CEO, Hawaii Youth Symphony*

*Speakers: **Rosina Cannizzaro**, Executive Director, Vermont Youth Orchestra Association; **Debora Kang**, Director of Education, Detroit Symphony Orchestra; **Sarah Whitney**, Executive Director, Triangle Youth Music*

4:30pm-5:30pm

Navigating a New Cultural Climate for Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion: A Continuing Conversation

As the cultural landscape continues to evolve, so do the challenges and opportunities in fostering equity, diversity, and inclusion within youth orchestras. This session will provide a space for open dialogue, reflection, and shared learning as we navigate the current state of equity, diversity, and inclusion in our field. While the specifics of the conversation will take shape based on the latest developments and participant input, we will explore the shifting dynamics, emerging best practices, and ongoing barriers to creating truly inclusive musical communities.

*Speakers: **Heather Noonan**, Vice President for Advocacy, League of American Orchestras; **Simon Woods**, President and CEO, League of American Orchestras*

5:45pm-7:00pm

YOD Dinner—[RSVP by June 9!](#)

Questions? Contact Lindsey Nova lindsey@trypo.org

Friday, June 13, 2025

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

10:15am – 11:15am Hot Topics

What's keeping you up at night as a youth orchestra leader? In this fast-paced, interactive session, bring your most pressing questions and challenges to the table. We'll crowdsource the topics, vote on what matters most, and then hot potato them around the room for rapid-fire ideas, insights, and solutions. A stopwatch may be involved—so get ready for a dynamic exchange of perspectives!

*Facilitator: **Lindsey Nova**, Executive Director, Three Rivers Young Peoples Orchestra*

11:15am – 11:45am Final Reflection and Staying Connected

As we leave Conference, what will we choose to take with us? How do we stay connected and energized by what we've learned? What topics do we want to explore in programming during YOD's 50th anniversary year? We will identify strategies to keep the momentum on our path and deepen relationships that will fulfill us as we return home.

*Moderator: **Lindsey Nova**, Executive Director, Three Rivers Young Peoples Orchestra*

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ACFEA Tour Consultants*

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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*.