

## **2026 National Conference Agenda—Composers**

*All times below are Eastern Time. Agenda subject to change.*

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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>.

### **Monday, June 1, 2026**

**9:00am-11:30am**     **Baltimore Symphony Orchestra Closed Rehearsal for Artistic Delegates**

Composers and other artistic personnel at member orchestras are invited to join the Baltimore Symphony Orchestra for a closed rehearsal.

**Location:** Joseph Meyerhoff Symphony Hall  
*Transportation on your own.*

**1:00pm-2:30pm**     **Constituency Meeting Block 1: Design Thinking Composer Workshop**

Knowing where you want your career as a composer to take you is step #1, but what comes next? In this Design Thinking session, Jessica Phillips and Loki Karuna will use the Logic Model framework to address the specific needs of composers and the unique ecosystem they work in. Participants will develop an understanding of successful outcomes by working through their own projects from inception to delivery. They will identify the needs of their target audience, brainstorm a satellite of compositional activities, develop a trajectory of outputs that engage presenting partners, stakeholders, and support infrastructures, and develop a narrative to demonstrate overall project impact.

*Speakers: **Jessica Phillips**, Musician, Metropolitan Opera; Educator, The Juilliard School, Consultant, 11A Collaborative, Board Director, League of American Orchestras; and **Loki Karuna**, Executive Director, American Composers Forum; President, TrillWerks Media*

**Tuesday, June 2, 2026**

**3:00pm-5:00pm    Constituency Meeting Block 2**

**Composing Community: Composers and Conductors Cross-Constituency Session**

Collaborative and ongoing relationships between music directors and living composers whose works they champion can forge new pathways for public engagement for orchestras. In this session, we explore practical considerations for initiating and maintaining these partnerships over time, and unpack new, generative residency models that bring the public into the creative process through participation.

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

*Speakers: **John Devlin**, Music Director, Wheeling Symphony Orchestra; **Jacob Gotlib**, Creator Corps Program Manager, Louisville Orchestra; **Jonathan Posthuma**, Artistic Planning Director, Saint Paul Chamber Orchestra; **LaRob K. Rafael**, Director of Composer Advancement, American Composers Orchestra*

**Wednesday, June 3, 2026**

**11:15am-12:45pm    Constituency Meeting Block 3**

**11:15am-12:15pm    The True Costs: Conversations with Publishers and Artist Managers**

There is no single template to serve as a driver for establishing fees, commission agreements, and composer engagements with orchestras, but there's a lot we can learn about what to ask and what to know from the people who negotiate these for composers every day. Publishers, artist managers, composers, and composer advocacy organizations will have an interactive conversation to help demystify this process and break down setting fees beyond the storied "\$1,000/minute."

*Moderator: **Vanessa Rose**, President and CEO, New Music USA*

*Speakers: **Elizabeth Blaufox**, Director, Promotion, Boosey & Hawkes; **Andrew Stein Zeller**, Director, Promotion, G. Schirmer and Associated Music Publishers; **Dan Visconti**, Principal, Visconti Arts; **Scott Winship**, Director of Grantmaking Programs, New Music USA*

**12:15pm-12:45pm    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.

*Moderators: **Loki Karuna**, Executive Director, American Composers Forum; President, TrillWerks Media; **Melissa Ngan**, President, American Composers Orchestra; **Vanessa Rose**, President & CEO,*

New Music USA; **Scott Winship**, Director of Grantmaking Programs,  
New Music USA

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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. Please consult the [League one-page Antitrust Overview](#) for more information, available at [www.americanorchestras.org](http://www.americanorchestras.org).