

2026 National Conference Agenda—Executive Directors, Group 2 Orchestras

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

Constituent Liaison: Heather Noonan, VP, Advocacy
hnoonan@americanorchestras.org
202 776 0215

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

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

1:00pm-1:30pm **Welcome**
Updates: League, Electronic Media

1:30pm - 2:30pm **Wisdom, Reflection, and Vision**
Join a conversation with Alan Valentine, reflecting on the strategy, organizational culture, and artistry that has defined his 28-year tenure of executive leadership of the Nashville Symphony.
*Speaker: **Alan Valentine**, President and CEO, Nashville Symphony*

7:30pm Group 2 Executive Directors Dinner
Advanced RSVP required to sebastiansack@laco.org by May 27. Rusty Scupper, 402 Key Highway

Tuesday, June 2, 2026

3:00pm-5:30pm Constituency Meeting Block 2

The Big Why: Part I
What Business Are We In?

Futurist Elizabeth Merritt helps us reflect on what our communities are asking of us and what may change within our organizations to

better respond to these community needs. How might orchestras be required to adapt and apply resources—what do we need to invest in and what do we need to let go of—as we answer the question of relevance?

*Moderator: **Elizabeth Merritt**, American Alliance for Museums Vice President for Strategic Foresight and the Founding Director of the Center for the Future of Museums*

The Big Why: Part II Cultures of Trust and Transparency

Conversations about relevance and change can be complex. A moderated conversation will identify the conditions that create a culture of trust and transparency to support conversations across stakeholders within our organizations.

*Moderator: **Jessica Schmidt**, Principal Consultant, Orchestrate Inclusion*

Wednesday, June 3, 2026

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

The Big Why: Part III Strategic Alignment and Commitment

Consider the institutional discipline and process needed to support alignment around your orchestra's shared commitments. This discussion will be informed by the findings of a recent study of the Charlotte Symphony by a renowned strategic consulting firm, which included comparative, opinion-seeking interviews with 10 other orchestras' CEOs from Group 1 and Group 2.

*Moderator: **David Fisk**, President and Chief Executive Officer, Charlotte Symphony Orchestra*

Executive Directors, Group 2 Constituency Meetings have been generously sponsored by Sametz Blackstone Associates

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.