

2026 National Conference Agenda—Education and Community Engagement (EdCE) and Youth Orchestra Division (YOD) Pre-Conference Half-Day Meeting

All times below are Eastern Time. Agenda content, order, and timings are subject to change.

EdCE Constituent Liaison: Najean Lee, Director of Gov. Affairs and Education Advocacy
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YOD Constituent Liaison: Heather Briere, Director, 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>.

Sunday, May 31, 2026

1:00pm-1:10pm

Welcome and Introductions

*Facilitators: **Heather Briere**, Director of Learning and Leadership Programs, and **Najean Lee**, Director of Government Affairs and Education Advocacy, League of American Orchestras*

1:10pm-2:10pm

Building Harmony: The Musical Ecosystem in Baltimore

When music is removed from public school curricula, dedicated teachers and arts leaders step in to keep it alive. This presentation explores how a shared commitment to students' growth and excellence in music breaks down institutional barriers and brings communities together to create meaningful, collaborative opportunities.

*Facilitator: **Dan Trahey**, Founder and Director, Tuned-In at Peabody Preparatory*

*Panelists: **Jane Coffey**, Director of Development, OrchKids; **Mateen Milan**, Coordinator of Comprehensive Arts Education, Maryland Department of Education; **Jared Perry**, Music Teacher, Baltimore City Public Schools; **Nema Robinson**, Faculty, OrchKids and Tuned-In at Peabody Preparatory, 2025-26 Student Leadership Council at the League of American Orchestras; **Channel Williams**, Coordinator of*

*Fine Arts, Baltimore City Public Schools; **Bobby Woody**, Digital Audio Instructor, Peabody Preparatory; and joined by students and alumni from Baltimore School for the Arts, Peabody's Tuned-In and BSO's OrchKids program, and Baltimore City Public Schools*

2:15pm-3:15pm

Shared Ground: How Orchestras Collaborate Within Their Communities

Building on Baltimore as a model of a thriving musical ecosystem, leaders from orchestras and youth ensembles across the country explore how organizations can collaborate, share ground, and co-create with the communities they serve. Panelists from the Baltimore Symphony Orchestra, Oklahoma City Philharmonic, Detroit Symphony and Civic Youth Ensembles, and Triangle Youth Music discuss how they've identified partners, built trust, and developed programs rooted in genuine community need.

*Facilitator: **Daniel Meyers**, Executive Director, Elgin Youth Symphony Orchestras*

*Panelists: **Debora Kang**, Director of Learning, Detroit Symphony Orchestra; **Shannon Lockwood**, Director of Education and Community Engagement, Oklahoma City Philharmonic; **Miloš Tošić**, Associate Director of Artistic and Program Operations, OrchKids; **Sarah Whitney**, Executive Director of Triangle Youth Music*

3:15pm-3:30pm

Networking Break

Light snacks and refreshments will be provided.

3:30pm-4:15pm

Collective Composition: Creating Music Together

This interactive exercise explores collective composition as a collaborative approach to music-making, where ensembles and communities co-create works by blending individual ideas into a shared artistic vision. By breaking down traditional hierarchies, it fosters an environment where teachers and students listen to and learn from one another. Emphasizing process over individual authorship, it highlights strategies such as improvisation, creative games, technology, and trust-building to build connection, creativity, and community engagement.

*Facilitators: **Samantha Flores Guerrero**, OrchKids Program Manager; **Mateen Milan**, Coordinator of Comprehensive Arts Education, Maryland Department of Education; **Jared Perry**, Music Teacher, Baltimore City Public Schools; **Dan Trahey** Founder and Director, Tuned-In at Peabody Preparatory; **Pete Tashjian**, Founder and Artistic Director, Collective Conservatory; **Danielle Williams**, OrchKids Director of Education; **Bobby Woody**, Digital Audio Instructor, Peabody Preparatory; and joined by students and alumni from Baltimore School for the Arts, Peabody's Tuned-In and BSO's OrchKids program, and Baltimore City Public Schools, and the League*

of American Orchestras 2025-26 Student Leadership Council

4:15pm-5:00pm

Roundtables

Engage in small group conversation to share models, questions, and best practices in inclusive, audience-centered program design across family, school, and community contexts.

*Facilitators: **Laura Reynolds**, Vice President of Impact and Innovation, San Diego Symphony and **Terry Wolkowicz**, Education Director, New Bedford Symphony Orchestra*

5:00pm-5:30pm

Ideas and Implementation

We'll wrap up our time together by reflecting back on major themes, interesting observations, and action steps we can implement when we return home.

*Facilitators: **Lindsey Nova**, Executive Director, Three Rivers Young Peoples Orchestra, and **Terry Wolkowicz**, Education Director, New Bedford Symphony Orchestra*

5:30pm

Adjourn

*The EdCE and YOD Pre-Conference Half-Day Meeting has been generously sponsored by
Encore Tours*

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