

Contact: Rachelle Schlosser, Director of Media Relations  
and Communications  
[rschlosser@americanorchestras.org](mailto:rschlosser@americanorchestras.org)  
646 822 4027  
Twitter: @orchleague

**Twelve Orchestra Professionals from Across the U.S.  
Selected for League of American Orchestras'  
*Emerging Leaders Program***

**Competitive Eight-Month Program  
Develops Participants' Leadership Capacities while  
Identifying the Orchestra Field's Future Leaders**

New York, NY (October 31, 2019) – Twelve orchestra professionals will participate in the League of American Orchestras' *Emerging Leaders Program*, the field's prime source for identifying and cultivating the leadership potential of talented orchestra professionals.

The competitive eight-month program begins this week with a three-day meeting in New York City and will also include one-to-one coaching, in-depth seminars led by leadership experts, visits with leaders in cultural and performing arts institutions, virtual convenings, and a capstone project culminating at the League's 2020 National Conference in Minneapolis/St. Paul, MN (June 10-12, 2019). The curriculum develops participants' individual leadership capabilities and serves to advance strategic thinking, resiliency, and innovation throughout the orchestra field.

"These twelve professionals are stewards of our field's future," said President and CEO Jesse Rosen. "They will hone their leadership skills and strategic vision through this flagship League of American Orchestras' leadership development program, while building a cohort of colleagues they can learn from in years to come."

Launched in 2014, the *Emerging Leaders Program* is the newest chapter in the League's history of developing orchestral leaders. Along with its previous iteration, the *Orchestra Management Fellowship Program*, the *Emerging Leaders Program* has advanced the development of more than 200 alumni—now executive directors and senior executives of orchestras.

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Additional League leadership and professional development programs have included the *Executive Leadership Programs*, *Institutional Vision* and *Critical Issues* programs, *American Conducting Fellowship Program*, and *Essentials of Orchestra Management*.

## **About the 2019-20 Emerging Leaders Program:**

The current cohort is comprised of orchestra executive directors, a professional orchestral musician, and managers in a cross-section of orchestra departments, including education and community engagement, development, marketing, personnel, public relations, operations, programming.

The participants were selected through a competitive application process; the League sought individuals who bring the imagination, drive, and commitment to grow as leaders in their own orchestras and serve as champions for the field.

A trio themes underpin the curriculum for this intensive program:

**Fostering a Vibrant Orchestra** - Understanding and assessing organizational culture and developing the foundational knowledge to be able to build a thriving and effective organization with a healthy, diverse, and inclusive culture.

**Taking Responsibility for Personal Development** - Building reflective practice as a means of increasing self-awareness and self-management in ways that sustain a career of increasing responsibility, influence, and professional growth in the orchestra field.

**Leading with a Unified Vision** - Developing a unifying strategic direction, working across traditional boundaries to bring people together in support of shared purpose.

The League's *Emerging Leaders Program* is guided by renowned leadership expert John McCann as the lead faculty and facilitator. One-to-one leadership coaching is provided throughout the course by leadership development specialists Craig Coble and Mary Parish. Additional faculty—including Ama Codjoe, arts and social justice educator, and guest speakers from inside and outside the orchestra field—provide ELP participants with

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diverse perspectives and multifaceted learning experience. [See faculty bios on our website.](#)

The 2019-20 *Emerging Leaders Program* participants are:

- Karina Bharne, Executive Director, Symphony Tacoma
- Robin Freeman, Director of Public Relations, San Francisco Symphony
- JT Kane, Dean of Visiting Faculty and Orchestra Manager, New World Symphony
- Giuliano Kornberg, Chief Development Officer, Sacramento Philharmonic and Opera
- Rachel Lappen, Senior Director of Development, The Cleveland Orchestra
- Monica Meyer, Vice President of Marketing, Sales and Public Relations Virginia Symphony Orchestra
- Brian Prechtl, Percussion, Baltimore Symphony Orchestra
- Andrew Roitstein, Director of Education and Community Engagement, Orchestra of St. Luke's
- Ignacio Barron Viela, Executive Director, Billings Symphony Orchestra and Chorale
- Sarah Whitling, Manager of Strategic Initiatives, Dallas Symphony Orchestra
- Leah Wilson-Velasco, CEO, Walla Walla Symphony
- Michelle Zwi, Associate Personnel Manager, The Philadelphia Orchestra

[Cohort bios and photos are linked on our website.](#)

Read bios of previous program participants on our website: [Class of 2018-19](#); [Class of 2017-18](#); [Class of 2016-17](#); and [Class of 2015-16](#).

**The *Emerging Leaders Program* is made possible by generous grants from American Express, The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, and the National Endowment for the Arts.**

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# League of American Orchestras

The **League of American Orchestras** leads, supports, and champions America's orchestras and the vitality of the music they perform. Its diverse membership of more than 2,000 organizations and individuals across North America runs the gamut from world-renowned orchestras to community groups, from summer festivals to student and youth ensembles, from conservatories to libraries, from businesses serving orchestras to individuals who love symphonic music. The only national organization dedicated solely to the orchestral experience, the League is a nexus of knowledge and innovation, advocacy, and leadership advancement. Its conferences and events, award-winning *Symphony* magazine, website, and other publications inform people around the world about orchestral activity and developments. Founded in 1942 and chartered by Congress in 1962, the League links a national network of thousands of instrumentalists, conductors, managers and administrators, board members, volunteers, and business partners. Visit [americanorchestras.org](http://americanorchestras.org).

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