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League  
of American  
Orchestras



**FORD MOTOR COMPANY FUND**

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**Five Orchestra Musicians Will Receive  
Ford Musician Awards  
from League of American Orchestras  
for their Inspiring Work Outside the Concert Hall**

**Recipients to Share their Award-Winning Education and Community  
Engagement Work at the League's 76th National Conference,  
Online June 7-17**

New York, NY (Thursday, June 3) – Five orchestra musicians will receive **Ford Musician Awards for Excellence in Community Service** from the League of American Orchestras at the [League's 76th National Conference, Online June 7-17, 2021](#). Supported by Ford Motor Company Fund, the awards recognize professional musicians' deeply impactful work outside the concert hall, much of it virtual this year due to the pandemic.

The 2021 awardees work with both adults and children in a rich variety of community settings, using music as a therapeutic tool for adults with severe and persistent mental

health challenges; providing pop-up concerts during food bank distributions; bringing orchestra musicians to a regional hospital and the many constituents it serves; organizing front-porch private violin lessons and schoolyard group classes during the pandemic to breach the digital divide; and bringing the joy of music to toddlers and their families.

“The musicians we see on stage making great music together in an orchestra are all treasured individual members of their communities. Many of them are using their talents and humanity to teach, to inspire, and to draw out the power of music for comfort and healing,” said League President and CEO Simon Woods. “This award honors that work, and the incredible generosity of spirit that underpins it. We’re grateful to Ford Motor Company Fund for their years of support for this important program—made even more meaningful due to the pandemic.”

“These five musicians have truly gone above and beyond for their communities over the past year, creating lasting positive impacts during such an uncertain time,” said Yisel Cabrera, Manager, Government and Community Relations, Ford Motor Company Fund. “When people couldn’t get together in person, being able to connect through music brought joy to so many.”

Since 2016, [25 professional orchestra musicians](#) from across the country have received awards. Honorees were selected through a competitive application process; each musician receives a cash award of \$2,500 and complimentary registration to the League’s National Conference. The musician’s orchestra receives a grant of \$2,500 to support professional development for its roster of musicians, as well as complimentary registration for one staff member to attend the Conference.

The 2021 awardees will be recognized at the League of American Orchestras online Conference during the [Opening Session](#) on Monday, June 7 at 3:30 p.m. Eastern. They will also present their work at “Partnering Effectively,” a joint constituency meeting for musicians and education and community engagement staff, on Monday, June 14 at 1 p.m. Eastern. Videos of the musicians’ work will be posted on the League’s website after the Conference.

The five 2021 Ford Musician Awards for Excellence in Community Service honorees and their orchestras are:



*Photo Courtesy of Knoxville  
Symphony*

**Sean Claire, Violin, Knoxville Symphony Orchestra**

*Knoxville Symphony Orchestra's Music & Wellness program*

Since 1990, Sean Claire has been a core member of the Knoxville Symphony Orchestra; during his tenure he has served in a variety of roles including Acting Principal Second Violin and Acting Associate Concertmaster, which included an extended period as Concertmaster. He has appeared as soloist with the Knoxville Symphony Chamber Orchestra numerous times and also holds the distinction of being the first of a select group of solo performers in the KSO's Music and Wellness program. In addition, Claire holds the position of Concertmaster with the Symphony of the Mountains (Kingsport, TN) and has appeared there several times as soloist. His position at the Symphony of the Mountains, along with his extensive orchestral and teaching experience, led to a temporary position at East Tennessee State University (2015-16) as Instructor of Violin and Viola, and Chamber Music Coach. Some of his other orchestral credits include the Nashville Chamber Orchestra (TN), the Bryan Symphony Orchestra in Cookeville (TN), the Syracuse Symphony (NY), and the Asheville Symphony (NC).

*“Whether providing a conduit for a patient and family member to connect during a stressful time, helping someone to focus on something other than pain, or assisting a brain injury patient to complete more repetitions of an exercise to match the tempo of the music—these musical interactions help patients to heal.” – Sean Claire*



Photo Credit: Jon Clay

## Jeremy Crosmer, Cello, Detroit Symphony Orchestra

*Detroit Symphony Orchestra's partnership with Kadima Mental Health Services' Creative Expressions Program*

Jeremy Crosmer is a remarkable young artist, both as a cellist and a composer. Crosmer completed multiple graduate degrees from the University of Michigan in cello, composition, and theory pedagogy, and received his D.M.A. in 2012 at age 24. From 2012 to 2017 he served as the Assistant Principal Cellist in the Grand Rapids Symphony, and joined the Detroit Symphony Orchestra in May of 2017. He is the composer and arranger for the GRS Music for Health Initiative, and also a key member of the DSO's partnership with Kadima Mental Health Services. Crosmer is a founding member of the modern music ensemble Latitude

49, and a current member of the band ESME, a pop-classical mash-up duo that released its first CD in December of 2016. Crosmer was awarded the prestigious Theodore Presser Graduate Music Award to publish, record, and perform his Crosmer-Popper duets. In 2021, Crosmer created a database of free, digital editions of music by Classical Black Composers, arranged or transcribed for string quartet, with over 33 pieces available on his website. Crosmer has taught music theory, pre-calculus, and cello at universities across Michigan.

*"With the DSO/Kadima partnership, I am blessed to be able to serve the mental health community. We foster a positive atmosphere by accessing participants at their level in the comfort of their facility or homes, and we also elevate them through collaboration and showcasing at our concert hall and online." – Jeremy Crosmer*



*Photo Credit: Karissa Shivone*

## **Lorien Benet Hart, Violin, Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra**

*Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra's partnership with 412 Food Rescue*

Violinist Lorien Benet Hart has been a member of the Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra since 2001. Her previous positions include Assistant Concertmaster in both the Charlotte and Windsor Symphony Orchestras. The summers often find her in Jackson Hole, where she has been a member of the Grand Teton Music Festival since 1995. Hart holds a Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of California at Berkeley and a Masters of Music degree from the University of Michigan. She has studied under Murray Adaskin, Sidney Humphreys, Anne Crowden, Emanuel

Hurwitz, and Paul Kantor. A passionate teacher and active volunteer, Hart lives in Pittsburgh with her husband, Chris, and their two children, Abigail and Jonah.

*"It is amazing to feed both the body and the soul of our fellow Pittsburghers, young, old, and all ages in between. We have had people dance, sing, cry, and even beatbox with us... each an indelible memory to remind us of the power of live music." – Lorien Benet Hart*



Photo Credit: Roger Mastroianni  
Photography

### **Miho Hashizume, Violin, The Cleveland Orchestra**

*The Cleveland Orchestra's violin program at Mound Elementary School in the Slavic Village neighborhood (front-porch private violin lessons and schoolyard group classes during the pandemic)*

Born and raised in Tokyo, Miho Hashizume joined The Cleveland Orchestra in 1995, after serving as a member of the Toronto Symphony Orchestra. A member of the first violin section, she also is a longtime member of Apollo's Fire/The Cleveland Baroque Orchestra and has appeared as a soloist with the group at festivals in Aspen, Boston, Detroit, and Indianapolis. Hashizume has a passion for sharing music with the community through The Cleveland Orchestra's education programs and, since 2012, has served as Concertmaster with CityMusic Cleveland, regularly performing free concerts in under-resourced communities. Hashizume performs with Cleveland Orchestra colleagues in the Amici String Quartet and has taught at the Oberlin College Conservatory of Music and coached students at Case Western Reserve University.

*"When the COVID-19 pandemic hit... The Mound School shifted online—a change that was necessary for safe learning but challenging for working parents without childcare, and students without WiFi, computers, or internet access.... I quickly learned that Cleveland's digital divide is a huge issue. I started organizing front-porch private lessons and schoolyard group classes for the students. Working closely with the students and their families last summer gave me a deeper understanding of the enormous stress the parents face every day."— Miho Hashizume*



Photo Credit: Richie Hawley

## John Turman, Horn, Seattle Symphony

*Tiny Tots early-childhood education series and  
Tiny Clips for Tiny Tots online program*

John Turman joined the Seattle Symphony in the fall of 2015 as Third Horn. Prior to becoming a member of the Seattle Symphony, Turman was awarded the position of Principal Horn of the St. Paul Chamber Orchestra in the spring of 2015.

During the 2013-2014 season, Turman

performed with the Dallas Symphony Orchestra as Acting Third Horn. Additionally, he has performed with the Houston Symphony, Houston Grand Opera, Austin Symphony, and the Austin Lyric Opera. In addition to his orchestral playing, Turman is a dedicated chamber musician, music educator, and producer. He is the host and executive producer of the Seattle Symphony's early music education program Tiny Tots, as well as its online companion program, Tiny Clips for Tiny Tots. He is also the founder and executive producer of Horn Hippie Media LLC, an independent digital media company that serves education departments in orchestras across America. Originally from Austin, Texas, Turman received his degree in Horn Performance from Rice University in 2015 where he studied under William VerMeulen. In his free time, Turman enjoys powerlifting, video games, and playing jazz guitar.

*"I believe this work is making a difference in children's lives by bringing them comfort and joy with music as the conduit. That is what makes the biggest difference in our community. With the ongoing restrictions on large gatherings here in Washington (state), it is more important than ever to connect with our youngest learners and remind them that there is still happiness to experience, songs to sing, and music to be made." – John Turman*

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## About Ford Motor Company Fund

As the philanthropic arm of Ford Motor Company, Ford Fund's mission is to strengthen communities and help make people's lives better. Working with dealers and nonprofit partners in more than 50 countries, Ford Fund provides access to opportunities and resources that help people reach their full potential. Since 1949, Ford Fund has invested more than \$2.1 billion in programs that support education, promote safe driving, enrich

community life and encourage employee volunteering. For more information, visit [www.fordfund.org](http://www.fordfund.org) or join us at @FordFund on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#) and [Twitter](#).

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 1,800 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 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).