



A Place for Us

From its founding in 1942, one of the central missions of the League of American Orchestras has been to bring people from this country's far-flung orchestras together for "an exchange of ideas and programs," as co-founder Leta Snow wrote. And for 73 years running, the League's annual Conference has done exactly that, gathering virtually the entire orchestra field and partners to meet face to face, share knowledge, explore best practices, and discover the latest thinking and research. In addition to offering practical strategies and tactics, the Conference has introduced important topics, tackled difficult issues, and sparked fresh perspectives. Though technology has advanced (goodbye, overhead projectors; hello, PowerPoint), the essential human connection at Conference endures. As the League celebrates its 75th anniversary, here are a few moments in Conference history.



Matthew H. Sharling

A familiar scene at League Conferences: on the go with colleagues between must-see sessions, at the 2007 Conference in Nashville.



At the 1980 Conference in New York City, Leonard Bernstein delivered the keynote address and soprano Beverly Sills was given the League's Gold Baton award "for her cultivation and captivation of new audiences for the arts."



Mark T. Osler

A session for women conductors was part of the 2008 Conference in Denver.



Checking in at the 1965 Conference in Washington, D.C. Now there's an app for that.



Richard Lippentholz

The 2016 Conference in Baltimore addressed diversity and inclusion at orchestras, and U.S. Congressman Elijah E. Cummings delivered an inspiring speech about his own connection with classical music, and why the arts matter.



Asher Keilman

Discussing shared concerns with peers at the 2009 Conference in Chicago. The Conference returns to Chicago this June 13-15. [Click here](#) to learn more.