

League of American Orchestras:
Leading, supporting, and championing
America's orchestras and the vitality of the music they perform

Benefits of League Membership for Orchestra Board Members

“The League connects us, strengthening our community to leverage our collective power to learn from one another, to speak with one voice, and to advance the artists, the art form, and the organizations that bring the orchestral experience to nearly 25 million Americans each year.”

—**Douglas M. Hagerman**, Board Chair, League of American Orchestras;
Past Chair, Milwaukee Symphony Orchestra

Your orchestra is part of a vibrant community of 1,800 organizations and individuals across North America that belong to the League of American Orchestras—the only national organization dedicated to orchestras. Our diverse membership 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. We thank you for being one of the nearly 9,000 orchestra board members across the country.

Founded in 1942 and chartered by Congress in 1962, the League helps orchestras acknowledge and address the most critical issues head on: leading in times of rapid and profound change, responding to changing audience patterns and tastes, understanding and adapting business models and practices, and deepening relationships with communities. Led by President and CEO Simon Woods with a 30-person staff headquartered in New York City, the League is a \$7-million organization funded by about 30% through membership dues, including dues your orchestra pays, and 70% by fundraising and other earned revenue. The League is truly grateful to orchestra board members for their service to their orchestra and for their major giving support to the League, and we always insist that their home orchestra remain their top priority.

The work of the League is both broad and deep:

Mission: To advance the experience of orchestral music, support the people and organizations that create it, and champion the contributions they make to the health and vibrancy of communities.

Vision: The orchestral experience is shared by all and supported by artistically vibrant, robust, and civically engaged organizations, and the League is an indispensable leader, resource, and voice for the orchestra community and its value to the public.

Find answers to questions and guidance on almost any aspect of orchestra governance and management on our website, americanorchestras.org, or by contacting:

David Styers, Board Member Liaison – dstyers@americanorchestras.org – 646 822 4033

Erica Green, Major Gifts Officer – egreen@americanorchestras.org – 646 822 4060

Simon Woods, President and CEO – swoods@americanorchestras.org – 646 822 4046

Doug Hagerman, Board Chair – doughagerman@gmail.com

On the reverse, you will find the list of benefits and activities you will receive as a board member of a member orchestra. The League's many activities can be grouped into four categories:

I. Learn

- [Noteboom Governance Center](#)—Offerings include a governance handbook, a music director search handbook, webinars and videos, and more.
- [Seminars and Digital Learning](#)—Content areas range from fundamentals of orchestra management and best practices in governance to achieving long-term fiscal health and building strategic community partnerships.
- [Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion \(EDI\) Work](#)—Convenings, working groups, research, an online resource center, and more to help orchestras become more inclusive and representative of the communities they serve.
- [Regranting Programs](#) — National funders look to the League for leadership in regranting funds to member orchestras through competitive application programs to help them address critical needs.

II. Connect

- [A Lifeline for Technical Assistance](#)—The League has developed unique expertise to help the people who make the concerts happen.
- [National Conference](#) —Thousands of orchestra leaders, administrators, board members, volunteers, and musicians come together annually to learn about and test new ideas, solve problems, acquire new skills, and build networks.
- [League 360](#)—The League facilitates a variety of online discussions for peer groups of board members, managers, conductors, volunteers, youth orchestra leaders, librarians, and more.

III. Advocate

- [Media Relations](#)—We represent the field through proactive outreach to national media outlets—print, broadcast, and digital—helping to tell the stories of orchestras nationwide.
- [Advocacy](#)—Through our Washington D.C. office, and led by Heather Noonan, the League's Vice President for Advocacy, the League represents orchestras' interests before Congress, federal agencies, and the White House, providing policy makers with compelling, coordinated information about the public value of orchestras and the music they perform.

IV. Envision

- [Symphony Magazine](#)—The League's award-winning quarterly magazine reports on the critical issues, trends, personalities, and developments of the orchestra world. (If you aren't receiving it, please contact - 646-822-4010 or member@americanorchestras.org to see if you qualify for a free subscription. Most board members of member orchestras are eligible.)
- [The Hub](#)—The League's online news site aggregates the latest thinking, breaking news, and information about the orchestra community from a wide variety of sources in a daily newsletter (available on demand) and through a bi-weekly e-newsletter.

Engage with us on **social media**—on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), [LinkedIn](#), and [Instagram](#).

