



Dear Friends,
Thank you for being part of the League's philanthropic community and supporting our mission to strengthen orchestras through advocacy, research, convenings, leadership, and so much more. As the orchestra field looks forward boldly, the League continues to be an indispensable resource and advocate for orchestras. We hope you will enjoy reading our 2022 Impact Report to see all we have accomplished through your generosity. For the full version of this report, scan the QR Code below.

With gratitude,
Simon Woods, President & CEO



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Advocacy

In November, the League's Vice President for Advocacy, Heather Noonan, returned from two weeks of **global conservation negotiations** in Panama City, Panama, focused on Pernambuco — the wood used in most string instrument bows. The League represented global musicians and partnered with instrument makers to achieve a successful outcome that will protect the rare and endangered wood, without losing the rights for transportation across borders that is critical for orchestras. The League also provided essential support for orchestras **navigating the visa requirements for guest artists**, all to boost opportunities for international cultural engagement.

The League saw years of advocacy pay off with the passage of the **new charitable giving incentives** in a 2022 year-end Congressional spending bill. As donations become an even larger percentage of revenue that fuels orchestras, the League advocated alongside more than 60 national nonprofit partners to increase the amount donors can give through the IRA charitable rollover provision, and to expand it to allow seniors to make tax-free contributions to life-income plans. Expect more details on this new giving opportunity in the coming months.



The League's Najean Lee and Heather Noonan with U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Director Martha Williams, National Symphony Orchestra Youth Fellowship Alumnus Lourdes de la Peña (cellist), and National Symphony Orchestra Youth Fellow Kerri Elizabeth Robinson (violinist) at an event celebrating World Wildlife Day and the 50th anniversary of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES).



Convenings and Events

Conference 2022

More than 1,000 Conference attendees from 47 U.S. states and 10 countries, representing 248 orchestras, gathered in Los Angeles in June 2022 to **discuss the field's most pressing topics**, including audience development; revenue generation; equity, diversity, and inclusion (EDI); environmental sustainability; and more. The Conference had a festive atmosphere of fellowship and collegiality, coming after an in-person hiatus of three years due to the pandemic. Conference delegates heard from dynamic speakers such as Gustavo Dudamel, Thomas Wilkins, and John Williams, and enjoyed performances by the Los Angeles Philharmonic, YOLA (Youth Orchestra Los Angeles), LA-based Baroque chamber ensemble KONTRAPUNKTUS, and the Inner City Youth Orchestra of Los Angeles.

Webinars 2022

Nearly 800 individuals representing over 350 orchestras and arts organizations across the country learned and gained insights from 21 live and on-demand digital learning events on topics such as getting your organization started on an EDI journey, handling burnout and improving mental health, and engaging younger audiences.

Top: Composer John Williams (center) and Los Angeles Philharmonic Music and Artistic Director Gustavo Dudamel (right) in conversation with Los Angeles Philharmonic CEO Chad Smith at the League's National Conference in Los Angeles. Photo: Greg Grudt/Mathew Imaging

Left: Screenshot from the League webinar "How Far We've Come: What's Working and What Isn't," featuring the League's Vice President of Inclusion and Learning Caen Thomason-Redus as speaker.

Right: Over 1,000 orchestra managers, musicians, trustees, and volunteers gathered in Los Angeles for the League's first in-person Conference in three years.



Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion

Virginia B. Toulmin Foundation Orchestral Commissions Program

Thirty orchestras from nineteen U.S. states and Canada will take part in the latest round of the League's **Virginia B. Toulmin Foundation Orchestral Commissions Program**, beginning in 2023. This unprecedented national consortium program ensures that new works by women composers, each commissioned by the League, will be infused in orchestra seasons to come, with multiple performances throughout the country.

The Catalyst Fund Incubator and Catalyst Publications

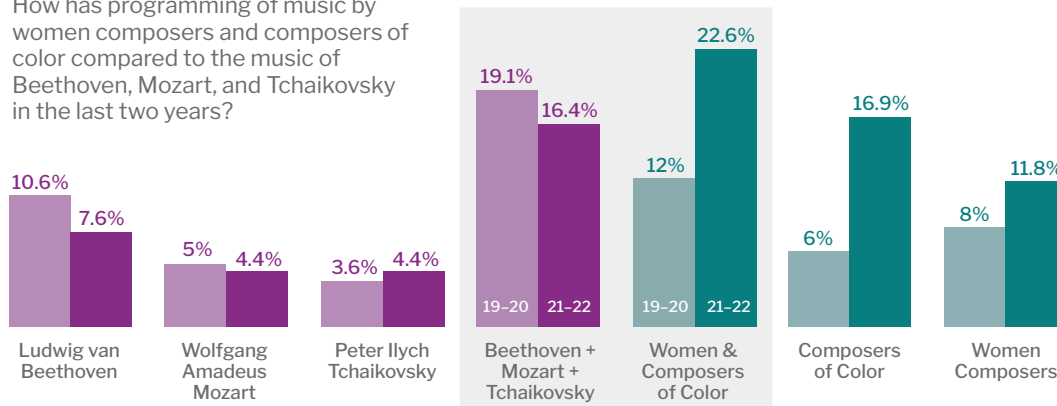
In Spring 2022, **The Catalyst Fund Incubator** grant program launched, with continued support from both the Mellon Foundation and the Paul M. Angell Family Foundation. The Incubator is a three-year program, with 20 member orchestras each receiving \$75,000. The orchestras are engaging EDI consultants of their choice in building their orchestra's capacity to support their vision of embedding EDI into all aspects of the organization's operations. This program aims to help orchestras accelerate organizational inclusivity and field-wide learning. Findings from The Catalyst Fund Incubator program were highlighted in three different publications released in 2022: **Promising Practices**, **Catalyst Snapshots**, and **Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion in Artistic Planning**.

2022 Orchestra Repertoire Report

The **2022 Orchestra Repertoire Report**, a new report by the Institute for Composer Diversity, produced in partnership with the League of American Orchestras, examined the programming of composers of color, women composers, and living composers by U.S. orchestras.

2015 – 2022 Season Comparisons

How has programming of music by women composers and composers of color compared to the music of Beethoven, Mozart, and Tchaikovsky in the last two years?



Data from the Institute for Composer Diversity

“The League of American Orchestras through its Virginia B. Toulmin Foundation Orchestral Commissions Program is an invaluable partner in supporting and advancing opportunities for today’s composers.”

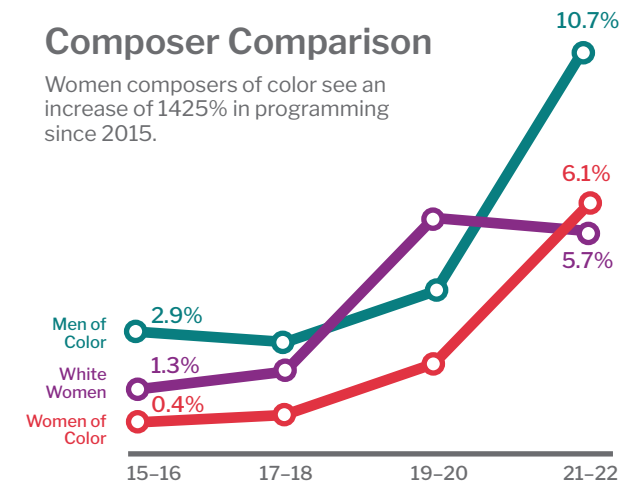
—Marie-Hélène Bernard, President and CEO of the St. Louis Symphony Orchestra

“To form a successful career, a composer needs both opportunities to hear their music played and to understand how to network across the field.”

—Stacy Garrop, Toulmin composer

Composer Comparison

Women composers of color see an increase of 1425% in programming since 2015.



Thank you for supporting the League of American Orchestras. Your generosity provides essential philanthropic support that fuels our mission to serve our member orchestras and all who work to bring orchestral music to communities across the country.

To support the League, scan the QR code below :



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of American
Orchestras**

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Learning and Leadership

Anne Parsons Leadership Program

The League established the **Anne Parsons Leadership Program** to honor Anne's life and legacy of leadership and mentoring in our field. This three-year pilot program will support promising women and non-binary orchestra professionals in their career progression, create and train a new network of established orchestra leaders to mentor and support them, and build a wider pool of candidates for leadership roles in the country's leading orchestras.

Essentials of Orchestra Management

In 2022, after a three-year hiatus, **Essentials of Orchestra Management** was held in person on the campus of The Juilliard School. Thirty-five outstanding participants took part in this residential program designed to prepare current and aspiring orchestra professionals with the tools and mindsets they need to grow as leaders and progress in their careers. Since the summer, 20% have received promotions, awards, or new positions in the field.



2022 Essentials cohort and faculty.
Photo credit: Rosalie O'Connor Photography

I will carry my Essentials experience with me for the rest of my life, as it brought to light how I want to and can best serve the greater orchestra community.

— Brooke Mead, Manager of Artistic Services, Baltimore Symphony Orchestra, Essentials Class of 2022

League Alumni Network

At the National Conference in June, the League launched the **League Alumni Network**, a national membership group for 800+ alumni of League leadership programs where alumni can connect both personally and professionally to share insights and experiences, seek advice, and build meaningful relationships.

Symphony

In December 2022, the League launched a new, free, digital platform for *Symphony*, the League's signature publication, and merged The Hub, the League's daily news aggregator, with *Symphony* to provide a single news source for the orchestra field. Now published year-round at symphony.org with a special print issue for Conference, *Symphony* features breaking news, cutting-edge research, provocative essays, interviews, personnel appointments, and in-depth articles that examine how orchestras are innovating to meet today's challenges.

Since launching, *Symphony* receives 18,000 views per month (compared to 14,000 per month for The Hub). *Symphony's* feature articles can be widely influential and have won multiple awards for outstanding coverage of music. Recent award-winning articles report on **anti-Black discrimination at American orchestras**, the **rise in music by Indigenous composers**, and the **new roles that orchestra musicians took during the pandemic**.