

A large, stylized arrow graphic pointing to the right, composed of two overlapping shapes: a dark purple one in the foreground and a teal one behind it. The arrow points from the logo on the left towards the title on the right.

League
of American
Orchestras

Impact Report

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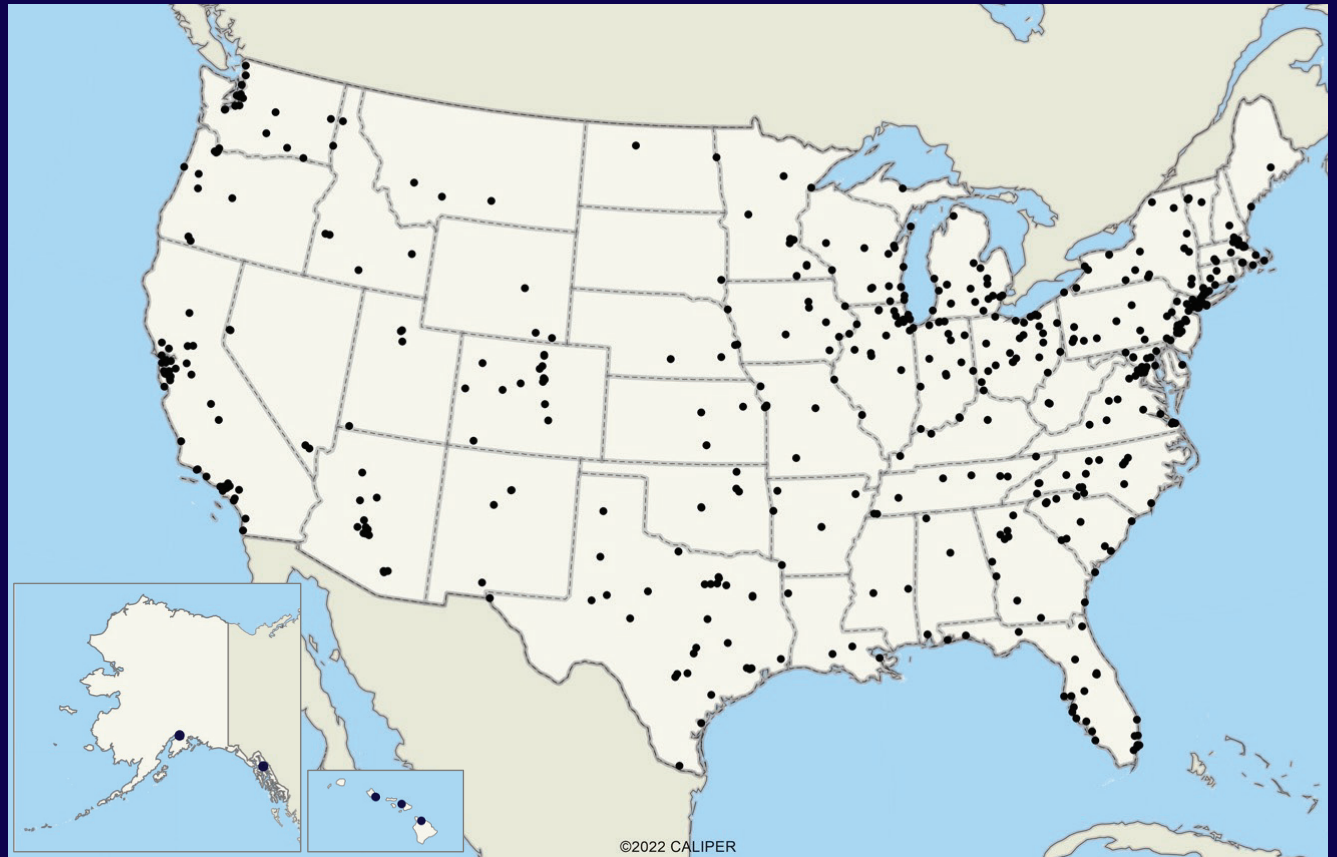
Dear Friends,

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.

With gratitude,
Simon Woods, President and CEO

CONTENTS:

- 3 **Advocacy**
- 4 **National Conference**
- 6 **Convenings and Events**
- 8 **Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion**
- 10 **Learning and Leadership**
- 11 ***Symphony***



The League has approximately 650 member orchestras, existing in all 50 states.

Advocacy

“The visa assistance provided by Najean Lee, League Director, Government Affairs & Education Advocacy, has been incredibly helpful as we navigate the ever-shifting landscape of artist visas.”

— Isaac Bunch, Director of Artistic Operations, Philharmonia Baroque Orchestra & Chorale

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.

As equitable access to **arts education** for all students is a top priority for orchestras, the League partnered with education stakeholders in 2022 to lead communications with leadership at the U.S. Department of Education, calling for immediate action to close gaps in access to arts learning opportunities in schools. This work will continue throughout 2023 as the League also offers advocacy resources to support orchestras taking action to advance music education at the community level.



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).

National Conference 2022

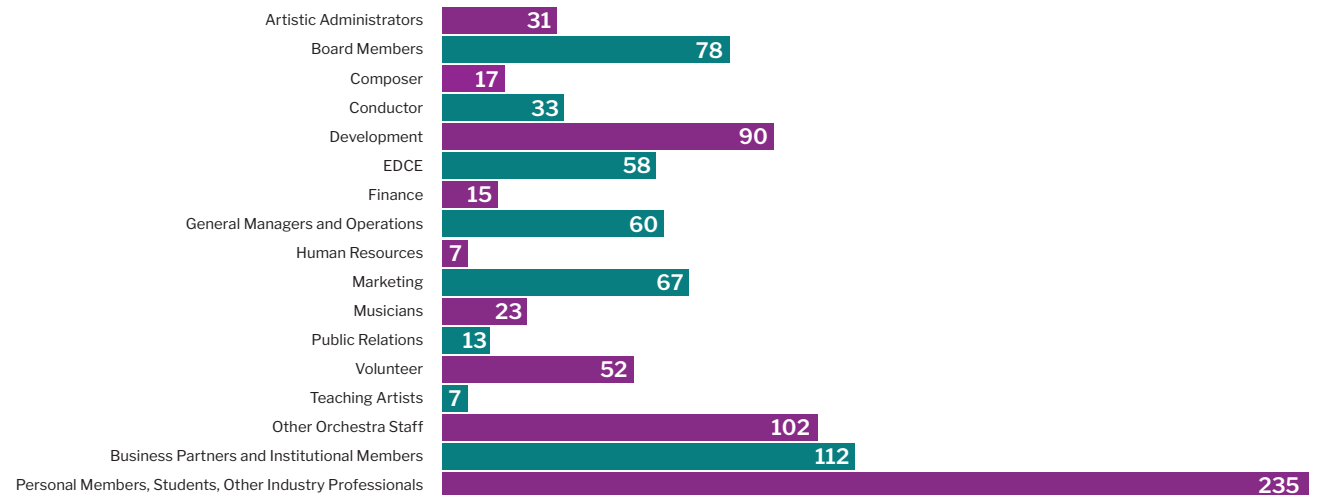




Conference 2022

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 artistic planning; revenue generation; audience development; environmental sustainability; equity, diversity, and inclusion (EDI); workforce development and retention; 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.

Conference Attendees by Constituency Group



“Our organizations are quite literally changing the world, and the Youth Orchestra of LA performances showed us how much there is to look forward to with the next generation of musicians accelerating this positive change.”

— Laura Reynolds, Vice President of Impact & Innovation, San Diego Symphony

Facing page: 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

Above: At the Conference, conductor Thomas Wilkins (pictured) addressed the audience after receiving the League's highest honor, the Gold Baton.

Photo: Craig T. Mathew/Mathew Imaging

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.



Convenings and Events



“I am a different person and conductor walking out of the National Conductor Preview, with a better understanding of the culture of American orchestras.”

— Tong Chen, Assistant Conductor, New Jersey Symphony

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, with many taking advantage of multiple events. Topics in 2022 included getting your organization started on an EDI journey, handling burnout and improving mental health, and engaging younger audiences.

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.



National Conductor Preview 2022

The League’s Bruno Walter **National Conductor Preview** put the spotlight on six conductors on the rise—Bertie Baigent, Tong Chen, Gonzalo Farias, Norman Huynh, Yuwon Kim, and François López-Ferrer—who led the Louisiana Philharmonic Orchestra in New Orleans on March 16 and 17, 2022. One of the orchestra field’s most prestigious opportunities for conductors to showcase their talent, the Preview offered the conductors two days of rehearsals, networking, and meetings with industry professionals, culminating in a free public concert that was streamed live and available on demand for 45 days.



Facing page: The League’s slate of offerings includes digital learning opportunities and in-person convenings. Photo: Rosalie O’Connor

Right: At the League of American Orchestras’ Bruno Walter National Conductor Preview in New Orleans, left to right: conductors François López-Ferrer, Tong Chen, Bertie Baigent; League President and CEO Simon Woods; Louisiana Philharmonic Orchestra Executive Director Anwar Nasir; conductors Gonzalo Farias, Norman Huynh, Yuwon Kim. Photo: Ryan Hodgson-Rigsbee

Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion



St. Louis Symphony Orchestra IN UNISON Chorus Director Kevin McBeth leads a Tiny Tunes concert at Powell Hall in St. Louis with dozens of Pre-K students on stage. Photo: Dilip Vishwanat

League Publications

In February 2022, the League published **Promising Practices**, a Catalyst Guide outlining clear, concrete actions that every orchestra can take to support their equity, diversity, and inclusion (EDI) journey, drawing on the work of some of the most committed orchestras in our field. Spotlighting members' progress, the follow-up **Catalyst Snapshots** report in the spring then presented seven case studies showing how these principles are being put into practice in orchestras' day-to-day work. At the end of 2022, focusing in on a critical area of orchestra operations, a third Catalyst Guide, **Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion in Artistic Planning**, told the stories of member orchestras reimagining their artistic planning work, and once again provided practical, relatable guidance for members at all stages of their EDI journey.

The Catalyst Fund Incubator

In the Spring of 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.

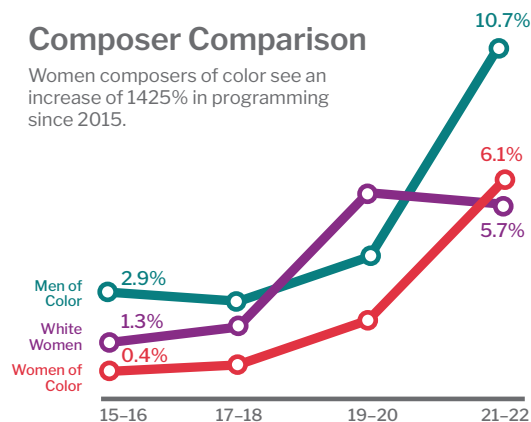
2022 Orchestra Repertoire Report

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. Key findings included:

- Works by women composers and composers of color (living and deceased) rose by 400%, increasing overall from 4.5% in 2015 to 22.5% in 2022
- Changes in diverse programming occurred across all measured orchestra budget groups and geographic regions

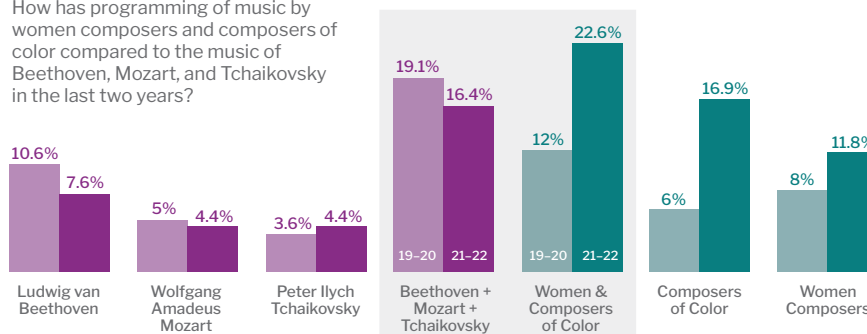
Composer Comparison

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



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



From left to right: Music Director of the St. Louis Symphony Orchestra Stéphane Denève; League Director, Learning & Leadership Programs David Styers; and Toulmin composer Stacy Garrop. Photo: Marie-Hélène Bernard

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

Virginia B. Toulmin Foundation Orchestral Commissions Program

Thirty orchestras from nineteen U.S. states and Canada were announced to 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, in partnership with the American Composers Orchestra, 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 calendar year 2022 saw the premieres of six Virginia B. Toulmin Foundation Orchestral Commissions, including Stacy Garrop’s *Goddess Triptych*, which was premiered on March 12-13, 2022 by the St. Louis Symphony Orchestra, conducted by Music Director Stéphane Denève.



Map of orchestras participating in the Toulmin consortium

The National Alliance for Audition Support

The Mellon Foundation has extended funding for the **National Alliance for Audition Support (NAAS)** for another three years. This program is a partnership between the Sphinx Organization, New World Symphony, and the League, and aims to increase Black and Latinx artists in American orchestras through mentoring, audition preparation intensives, and financial support in the form of stipends for audition travel and other professional development expenses.

Learning and Leadership



Anne Parsons
Photo: Courtesy of the Detroit Symphony Orchestra

Anne Parsons Leadership Program

The League established the **Anne Parsons Leadership Program** to honor Anne's life and legacy of leadership in our field and her inspiration to many through her passion for her work and selfless commitment to mentoring others. The 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. The League's vision is to achieve gender equity in executive orchestral leadership, including in the fifty largest budget orchestras. The League expects this program to become a permanent part of our leadership offerings.

League Alumni Network

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

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 in New York City. 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.

“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



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

Symphony

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 :

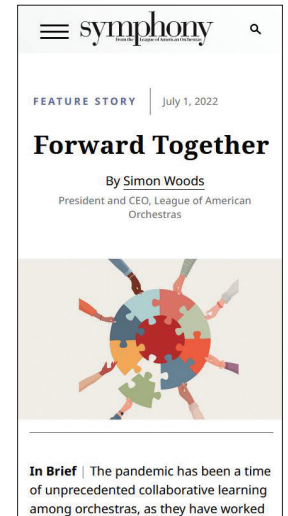


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In December 2022, the League launched a new, free, digital platform for *Symphony*, the League's signature publication, and merged The Hub, the League's daily news aggregator, with *Symphony* to provide a single news source for the orchestra field. 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**.



Above: an article written for Symphony by League President and CEO Simon Woods.

Left: Orchestra fans now have a better way to keep up on what is happening with orchestras nationwide by visiting Symphony's new website.

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