

May 30, 2023

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## **More than 1,000 Orchestra Administrators, Conductors, Musicians, Trustees, and Volunteers will Gather in Pittsburgh for “Bridges to the Future,” League of American Orchestras National Conference, June 14-16, 2023**

### **#Orch2023 Conference highlights include:**

- Keynote by NEA Chair Maria Rosario Jackson
- Conversation between New York Philharmonic CEO **Deborah Borda** and author/filmmaker **Jamie Bernstein**
- Remarks by Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra Music Director **Manfred Honeck** and Principal Pops Conductor **Byron Stripling**
- Concert featuring host **Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra** violinist **María Dueñas**, conducted by **Manfred Honeck**, including collaboration with **Pittsburgh Ballet Theatre**, and works by **Stacy Garrop** and **Wynton Marsalis**

New York, NY (May 30, 2023) – Music, fellowship, sharing, and learning will be on the agenda as more than 1,000 orchestra administrators, conductors, musicians, board members, and volunteers build “Bridges to the Future” at the [League of American Orchestras National Conference](#) in Pittsburgh, June 14-16, 2023. Hosted by the Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra, the Conference will take place at the Wyndham Grand Pittsburgh Downtown, with additional concerts and events at Heinz Hall for the Performing Arts. The last League Conference in Pittsburgh, the “City of Bridges,” was in 2004.

“Orchestras are closing out their seasons with a strong sense of optimism, as audiences are filling concert halls,” said League President and CEO, Simon Woods, “We are seeing the impact of orchestras’ bold programming, innovative approaches

to community and youth engagement, and significant investment in inclusivity and broadened community relationships. The League's Conference reflects this optimism and boldness of vision—qualities mirrored by our host, the Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra, and the city of Pittsburgh. It's a great location for our Conference as the field builds bridges to the future!"

"We're thrilled to welcome the orchestra field to Pittsburgh, a city renowned for innovation and culture, so a perfect setting for the Conference's live music-making, insightful sessions, and conversations," said Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra president and CEO Melia Tourangeau. "We're can't wait to see everyone for the concerts at our beautiful home, Heinz Hall, the cornerstone of Pittsburgh's thriving Cultural District."

The Conference [Opening Session and Keynote](#), at Heinz Hall on **Wednesday, June 14, from 1:30pm – 3:00pm**, will feature a keynote by National Endowment for the Arts Chair Maria Rosario Jackson, as well as a welcome from Simon Woods and Melia Tourangeau, and remarks by PSO Music Director Manfred Honeck, and City of Pittsburgh Mayor Ed Gainey.

Youth orchestras always play an important role at League Conferences, showcasing innovative works and musicians of the future. Two Pittsburgh youth orchestras will be featured at the session: The Pittsburgh Youth Symphony Orchestra, led by Music Director Jacob Joyce, will perform *Danzón No. 2* by Arturo Márquez, and the Three Rivers Young Peoples Orchestras, under the direction of Music Director and Conductor Brian Worsdale, will perform *Umoja, Anthem of Unity* for orchestra by Valerie Coleman.

On **Thursday, June 15, from 1:30pm – 3:00pm** at the Wyndham Grand Pittsburgh Downtown, New York Philharmonic CEO Deborah Borda will receive the League's highest honor, the Gold Baton Award, and will be [featured in conversation](#) with author, narrator, and filmmaker Jamie Bernstein. The League's Annual Meeting will also take place during this time.

The [Closing Luncheon and Plenary](#), at the Wyndham Grand Pittsburgh Downtown on **Friday, June 16, from 12:45pm – 2:30 pm**, will include a keynote from Byron Stripling, Principal Pops Conductor of the Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra. Building on the League's commitment in our new strategic framework to raising up the

voices of young people, we are excited to present a conversation with four young orchestra leaders who will share their observations about last year's and this year's Conference, the year in between, where they think the field is going, and their hopes for the future. The conversation will be led by Jessica Satava, Executive Director of South Carolina's Greenville Symphony Orchestra. The panelists are Colombian-born conductor Diego Barbosa-Vasquez, recent Southern Methodist University MA/MBA graduate Alexis Nguyen, Mid-Texas Symphony Operations Manager Kristian Vasquez, and Las Vegas Philharmonic Graduate Assistant and Director of Education Lauren Zwonik.

**Elective Sessions** on June 15 and 16 will explore topics including innovation; equity, diversity, and inclusion; finance and development; and youth, programming, and audience development. Elective Sessions with a Pittsburgh focus will include a discussion of the Pittsburgh Cultural District's operational collaboration Shared Services, and "Creating a Culture of Innovation," featuring a panel of local Pittsburgh tech companies, moderated by Dr. Farnam Jahanian, President of Carnegie Mellon University. Additionally, Pittsburgh-based artistic and administrative professionals will contribute to important panel discussions, including "'Americanizing the American Orchestra' at 30: A History and a Provocation" and "Diversifying Your Audience Through Non-Classical Programming."

Four exciting performances are planned during the Conference, which includes a new Pittsburgh Symphony commission by Stacy Garrop and a Pittsburgh Symphony collaboration with Pittsburgh Ballet Theatre, both on the June 14 concert at 7:30pm:

- Pittsburgh Youth Symphony Orchestra and Three Rivers Young Peoples Orchestras at the Opening Conference and Keynote on June 14 at 1:30pm at Heinz Hall (*open to delegates and members of the press*)
- Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra Concert on June 14 at 7:30pm at Heinz Hall with Manfred Honeck, conductor, María Dueñas, violin, and the Pittsburgh Ballet Theatre (*open to the public*)
- Guardians of Sound presents Hip Hop Orchestra on June 15 at 10:45am at the Wyndham Grand Pittsburgh Downtown (*open to delegates and members of the press*)
- Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra Concert on June 16 at 8:00pm with Manfred Honeck, conductor, and María Dueñas, violin (*open to the public*)

Networking/social events include:

- ALAANA Meeting on June 14
- Post-Concert Tune-Up Party on June 14
- League Alumni Network Reception on June 15
- All-Delegate Reception on June 15
- LGBTQIA+ Reception on June 15
- Young Professionals Event on June 15

The League has scheduled its first-ever **Tech Fair** on June 14, from 8:00am – 12:30pm, giving participants the opportunity to learn about a variety of technology offerings and how peers are incorporating these innovations into their daily operations. A range of existing and soon-to-be-released products and services will be showcased.

The full Conference schedule and overview can be found on the League of American Orchestras' Conference website, along with Conference registration information: [leagueconference.org](https://leagueconference.org).

All three general sessions and two elective sessions will be available for livestream to anyone who registers for the conference. Livestream Only tickets are also available for purchase on [leagueconference.org](https://leagueconference.org).

Members of the media interested in **Conference access or interviews**, please contact Rachelle Schlosser directly: [rschlosser@americanrchestras.org](mailto:rschlosser@americanrchestras.org).

Members of the media interested in **tickets to the June 14 and June 16 evening concerts** may contact Julie Goetz, Director of Communications at the Pittsburgh Symphony, at [jgoetz@pittsburghsymphony.org](mailto:jgoetz@pittsburghsymphony.org).

Conference hashtag: #Orch2023

*The Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra is grateful to its sponsors: BNY Mellon Grand Classics concerts are made possible by title sponsorship support from BNY Mellon.*

*BNY Mellon Grand Classics 19: Boléro is supported in part by the Emma Clyde Hodge Memorial Fund, Tom and Dona Hotopp, and the Byham Charitable Foundation. The Stacy Garrop commission Forging Steel is made possible in part by support from the National Endowment for the Arts. Appearances by all piano soloists during the inaugural season of the Steinway concert piano are generously supported by Carol and Jon Walton.*

*The League of American Orchestras is grateful to its institutional funders for their generous support of the 2023 National Conference: The Heinz Endowments, Mellon Foundation, National Endowment for the Arts, The Amphion Foundation, The Paul M. Angell Family Foundation, The Aaron Copland Fund for Music, Howard Gilman Foundation, Virginia B. Toulmin Foundation, and The Wallace Foundation.*

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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).