

# Guide to Benefits and Resources from the League of American Orchestras

Thank you for being a member of the League! Through your organization’s membership, you are part of a vibrant community of 650 orchestras and thousands of individuals across the nation.

The work of the League is both broad and deep:

**Mission:** To champion the vitality of music and the orchestral experience, support the orchestra community, and lead change boldly.

**Vision:** A thriving future for orchestras and their communities that celebrates creativity, artistry, and inclusion.

Below is a summary of the benefits and resources for all staff members, musicians, board members, and volunteers at your orchestra.

If you are not receiving emails from us or do not yet have a login for the League website, please contact our Member Services team at [member@americanorchestras.org](mailto:member@americanorchestras.org). You can also connect with us on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), [LinkedIn](#), [YouTube](#), and [X](#).

---

## Contents:

Networking and Connecting with Peers .....	2
Learning and Professional Growth Opportunities.....	2
Telling Your Orchestra’s Story .....	2
Making Progress in Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (EDI).....	3
Supporting Your Business Operations.....	3
Governance Best Practices and Resources for Orchestra Board Members.....	4
Research and Data Benchmarking Opportunities.....	4
Building Audience and Community Relationships.....	5
Resources for Orchestra Musicians .....	5
Resources for Orchestra Volunteers.....	5
Stay Informed .....	6

## Networking and Connecting with Peers

- Real-time information exchange with colleagues via [League360 discussion groups and file libraries](#)
- For most orchestra roles, a [constituent liaison](#) on the League staff who will answer your questions and organize meetings with your peers holding similar roles at their orchestras
- [ALAANA](#) (African, Latinx, Asian, Arab/Middle Eastern, or Native American) and [LGBTQIA+](#) affinity groups

## Learning and Professional Growth Opportunities

- Discounted opportunities to stay on top of best practices and professional development via online and in-person learning
  - [National Conference](#): The League's flagship event each June
  - [Live and on-demand webinars](#)
- [Midwinter Managers Meeting](#) for orchestra executive directors and youth orchestra administrators
- Opportunity to apply for the [Anne Parsons Leadership Program](#)
- Opportunity to apply for [Essentials of Orchestra Management](#)

## Telling Your Orchestra's Story

Multiple avenues to spread the word about your orchestra's programs and impact.

- Through the League's Washington, D.C. team, a voice on [key policy issues](#) affecting orchestras and resources to [help orchestras make the case](#) at the local and state levels
- Opportunities to showcase the activities of your orchestra in [Symphony](#), the League's award-winning publication that provides in-depth coverage, must-read news, reviews, and the latest thinking about member orchestras and organizations
- [Mapping Project](#): Free basic map and discounted customized [maps](#) that show the number, variety, and geographic spread of the schools, community partners, and businesses with which your orchestra interacts
- Free access to the League's [Public Value Toolkit](#)
- Representation in [Orchestra Facts](#) and [Orchestras at a Glance](#)

- Opportunity to showcase [images of your orchestra](#) on the League's website
- Advertising opportunities such as [paid festival listings](#), [banner ads on symphony.org](#), and [sponsored emails](#) to promote your programs and events to the orchestra community

## Making Progress in Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (EDI)

- Opportunity to participate in [Inclusive Stages](#), a major national initiative to increase the racial diversity of musicians in American orchestras
- Opportunity to apply to perform a premiere by a woman or nonbinary composer as part of the [Virginia B. Toulmin Orchestral Commissions Program](#)
- [Free publications](#) on how orchestras can become more equitable, diverse, and inclusive
  - [Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion in Artistic Planning](#)
  - [EDI Case Studies from American Orchestras](#)
  - [Promising Practices: Actions Orchestras Can Take to Make Progress Toward Equity](#)
- [Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Resource Center](#), including the [EDI Data Hub](#)
- Curated list of [Databases of Repertoire by Underrepresented Composers](#) to aid in artistic planning

## Supporting Your Business Operations

- Free, unlimited 30-day postings of vacancies in our online [Jobs Center](#)
- A new **Finance constituency group** for finance staff to connect with peers across the country
- Discounted [human resources consultative services](#)
- [Sample Human Resources documents](#), including sample contracts and job descriptions
- Access to free [visa support letters](#)
- One-on-one assistance with regulatory troubleshooting for international travel for artists and instruments through [Artists from Abroad](#)
- [Electronic Media Assistance](#) with Michael Bronson and Joe Kluger

- [COVID-19 Resources](#)
- **Assistance from the League's Knowledge Center:** Email [knowledge@americanorchestras.org](mailto:knowledge@americanorchestras.org) if you have specific questions that are not answered through the online resources

## Governance Best Practices and Resources for Orchestra Board Members

For an overview of the League and what services we provide specifically to orchestra board members, please refer to the [Benefits of League Membership for Orchestra Board Members](#). Here is a sample:

- A comprehensive range of support, strategies, and programs designed to strengthen governance practice through the [Noteboom Governance Center](#), including a [governance handbook](#), a [music director search handbook](#), webinars and videos, and more
- A [constituent liaison](#) on the League staff with governance expertise who will answer your questions and organize dedicated board member constituency meetings in person at Conference and online
- [League360 online discussion groups](#) for board members, organized by orchestra budget size
- Coverage of the latest news and trends in orchestra governance on [symphony.org](#)

## Research and Data Benchmarking Opportunities

- Multiple opportunities to learn from relevant, targeted data and insights, and to participate in cutting-edge research projects that benefit the entire field:
  - [Audience Research Initiatives](#), including partnerships with the [TRG Arts & Culture Benchmark](#) and [WolfBrown Audience Outlook Monitor](#)
  - Annual [Orchestra Statistical Report](#) with reports for participating orchestras benchmarking ticket sales, revenue generators, expenses, workforce, and balance sheets
  - Annual [Orchestra Demographics Report](#) benchmarking racial/ethnic and gender diversity for staff, board members, musicians, and conductors/music directors
  - Annual [Orchestra Repertoire Report](#) tracking repertoire trends, published in partnership with the Institute for Composer Diversity

- **Orchestra Inclusion Index**, a new tool developed with Accordant Advisors that allows orchestras to assess and benchmark their own organizational culture
- **Orchestra Audition Applicant Demographics Data Project**, in partnership with Acceptd and the National Alliance for Audition Support, fueling nation-wide discourse and action to improve racial diversity on stage

## Building Audience and Community Relationships

- [Audience Engagement Resources](#) to support you in growing and diversifying your audience
- [Music Education Advocacy Tools](#)
- [Orchestras Support In-School Music Education](#) statement of common cause
- [Advocacy Resources](#)

## Resources for Orchestra Musicians

- Free registration for the League's [National Conference](#) in June, which includes musician constituency sessions that are co-designed with musicians
- Information and advice on [traveling with instruments](#), including the [Know Your Bow](#) guide
- A [constituent liaison](#) on the League staff who will answer your questions and organize meetings with your musician peers at other orchestras
- Dedicated coverage of the latest news featuring musicians on [symphony.org](#)
- Opportunities to participate in advisory panels for the League's research initiatives
- Opportunity to represent your orchestra in League programs such as [Inclusive Stages](#)
- Opportunity to apply for League professional development programs [Anne Parsons Leadership Program](#) and [Essentials of Orchestra Management](#)

## Resources for Orchestra Volunteers

- Assistance for your orchestra's volunteers from the [League's Volunteer Council](#)
- Access to the [volunteer project database](#)

- Free registration for [Strategic Conversations](#), a Zoom series for volunteer association Presidents and Presidents-Elect
- Opportunity to apply for a [Gold Award of Excellence](#), which recognizes volunteer programs or initiatives that have made a significant impact on their orchestras
- Real-time information exchange with orchestra volunteers via [League360 discussion groups and file libraries](#)
- A [constituent liaison](#) on the League staff who will answer your questions and organize meetings with volunteers at other orchestras

### Stay Informed

- Bi-weekly roundup of orchestra news from [Symphony](#)'s daily news briefs and the opportunity to sign up for the latest updates at <https://symphony.org/sign-up/>
- Bi-weekly member newsletter, **Keynotes**

---

*And remember, in addition to accessing a strong peer network, you and any staff member, board member, musician, or volunteer affiliated with your orchestra can [call or email the League](#) with any question you may have. Consider us your orchestra's help desk!*