

League of American Orchestras:
Championing the vitality of music and the orchestral experience,
supporting the orchestra community, and leading change boldly.

Benefits of League Membership for Orchestra Board Members

Your orchestra is part of a vibrant community of 1,600 organizations and individuals across North America that belong to the League of American Orchestras—the only national organization dedicated to orchestras and their communities. Our diverse membership includes world-renowned orchestras, community groups, summer festivals, student and youth ensembles, conservatories and libraries, businesses serving orchestras, and 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 26-person staff headquartered in New York City, the League is a \$6.5-million organization funded about 30% by membership dues, including dues your orchestra pays, and 70% by fundraising and earned revenue. The League is 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:

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

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

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

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Erica Green, Director of Development | egreen@americanorchestras.org | 646 822 4060
Simon Woods, President and CEO | swoods@americanorchestras.org | 646 822 4046

Below is a summary of benefits and activities you will receive as a board member of a member orchestra. A full list of member orchestra benefits is available at americanorchestras.org/guide-to-orchestra-member-benefits-and-resources/.

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 Work](#)—A guide for orchestra boards, a statement of the case for equity, diversity, and inclusion in orchestras, and other resources to help orchestras become more inclusive and representative of their communities.

II. Connect

- [National Conference](#)—A thousand orchestra leaders come together annually to learn about and test new ideas, solve problems, acquire new skills, and build networks.
- [Dedicated Board Member Constituency Meetings](#)—In person at Conference and online throughout the year, join fellow orchestra board members from around the country in sessions designed to facilitate information sharing and learning.
- [League360](#)—The League facilitates online discussions for peer groups of board members, managers, conductors, volunteers, youth orchestra leaders, 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 Vice President for Advocacy Heather Noonan, 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.
- [Policy Advice](#)—The League provides one-on-one technical assistance to help navigate US visa and tax requirements, travel with musical instruments, federal funding, and newly approved policies that affect orchestras.

IV. Envision

- [Symphony](#)—Published online year-round, with an annual Conference print issue, the League's award-winning, signature publication reports on the critical issues, trends, personalities, and developments of the orchestra world. To get the latest news in your email inbox, sign up at symphony.org/sign-up.

And remember, you and any fellow board member, staff member, musician, or volunteer affiliated with your orchestra can always [contact the League](#) with any question you may have. Consider us to be your orchestra's help desk!



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