

## **Midwinter Managers Meeting—YOD Agenda**

*All times below are Eastern. Agenda subject to change.*

**Constituent Liaison:** Heather Briere, Director, Learning and Leadership Programs  
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### **Monday, January 26, 2026**

**12:30pm-3:30pm YOD Constituency Meetings**  
*Sponsored by Classical Movements*

**12:30pm-1:20pm Welcome and Voice Your Hot Topics**  
Welcome to Midwinter! In our opening session, we will say hello, break some ice, check in on YOD at 50 Celebration Project plans, and collect the topics for Hot Topics discussion the next day.

*Facilitated by Lindsey Nova, Executive Director, Three Rivers Young Peoples Orchestras*

**1:20pm-1:30pm Quick Break**

**1:30pm-2:30pm How to Build a Constructive Partnership Between Your Youth Orchestra and the Board**  
Exceptional governance happens when there is a strong constructive partnership between the chief executive and staff and the board chair and members. Recognizing that the effectiveness of this relationship is interdependent, ideally chief executives can maximize the strategic asset of their boards as a powerful force to support their work. Chief executives and boards excel when they understand that they are mutually dependent on one another to create a successful organization. This session will provide clarity around respective roles for a constructive partnership as well as ways to build genuine trust and respect, whether your organization has its own board, or you manage a youth orchestra navigating a relationship with a parent organization board of directors.

*Speaker: David Styers, Director, Learning and Leadership Programs, League of American Orchestras (formerly of BoardSource)*

**2:30pm-3:30pm Building a Thriving and Vibrant Workplace**

Discover and share current approaches and practices used to create a productive and healthy workplace. We'll look at ways to increase team satisfaction and growth through a positive work environment that reflects your organizational values. Discussion will focus on areas such as managing employee time and leave, healthy operations and daily scheduling, and ways to build community within your team. Hear how three organizations are tackling these issues, and then we'll open the room for guided discussion.

*Facilitated by Debora Kang, Director, Education of Detroit Symphony Orchestra; Diana Scoggins, Executive Director, Metropolitan Youth Symphony; and Loretta Thompson, Executive Director, DC Youth Orchestra Program*

**3:30pm-4:00pm Break**

**4:00pm-5:00pm General Session**

**Navigating the Great Intergenerational Wealth Transfer with Laura MacDonald, Benefactor Group**

Nearly \$124 trillion will transfer across generations by 2048—an unprecedented shift with profound implications for philanthropy. In this session, Laura will examine how donor behaviors evolve across generations and how orchestras can position themselves for long-term resilience. She will discuss ways to turn this research into adaptive approaches that deepen donor engagement and support lasting mission impact.

**Tuesday, January 27, 2026**

**11:00am-4:00pm YOD Constituency Meetings**

*Sponsored by Classical Movements*

**11:00am-12:30pm Hot Topics**

What's keeping you up at night as a youth orchestra leader? In this fast-paced, interactive session, bring your most pressing questions and challenges to the table. From yesterday's crowdsourced topics, vote on what matters most, and then hot potato them around the room for rapid-fire ideas, insights, and solutions. A stopwatch may be involved—so get ready for a dynamic exchange of perspectives!

*Facilitated by Lindsey Nova, Executive Director, Three Rivers Young Peoples Orchestras*

**12:30pm-1:45pm Lunch on Your Own**

**1:45pm-2:20 pm League Strategic Priorities 2026-2029: Feedback**

*Facilitated by Lindsey Nova, Executive Director, Three Rivers Young Peoples Orchestras, and Simon Woods, President and CEO, League of American Orchestras*

2:20-2:30pm

**Break**

2:30pm-3:30pm

**Option 1: Fueling a Big Vision with Laura MacDonald**  
**Zoom Breakout Room**

Join keynote speaker Laura MacDonald, a nationally recognized expert in philanthropy, fundraising, and organizational endowments, for an interactive hour focused on elevating your fundraising strategy. We'll gather your questions and reflections during the opening session to share with her in advance—but please also bring your real-time, burning fundraising questions. Laura will offer practical, high-impact tips relevant to organizations of all sizes.

*Speaker: Laura MacDonald, President and Founder of Benefactor Group*

**Option 2: Artistic Director Share-Out**  
**Zoom Breakout Room**

While administrative attendees dig into fundraising strategy, artistic staff are invited to gather in a separate space for an open, collegial conversation. This hour is an opportunity to share current challenges, exchange ideas, and connect with fellow artistic leaders facing similar opportunities and questions.

3:30pm-4:00pm

**Before You Go: What Should We Tackle Next?**

Before we part ways, we want your take. We'll gather quick, live feedback on our time together and crowdsource the topics that should rise to the top next—because this only works if it reflects what *you* care about.

**Generous support for the League's Midwinter Managers Meeting  
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**Notice:** It is important to keep in mind antitrust rules governing competition that apply to this group discussion. While the agenda for this group includes discussion of a variety of issues that are crucial to orchestras' planning and strategies, the goal is not to agree on a single approach to these issues. With the benefit of analysis and discussion, each orchestra will be able to decide independently what course of action is best for its own organization. We ask you to avoid comments that relate to your orchestra's current or future plans for *ticket or event pricing (actual ticket prices, discount amounts), bargaining (including collective bargaining agreements or with vendors), or compensation.*