

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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Meeting Location: The Westin New York at Times Square
270 W. 43rd Street, New York, NY 10036

Monday, January 26, 2026

11:30am-6:00pm Registration
Broadway Foyer, 3rd Floor

12:30pm-3:30pm YOD Constituency Meetings
Broadway II, 3rd Floor
Sponsored by Classical Movements

12:30pm-1:25pm 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

1:25pm-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

Broadway Ballroom II and III, 3rd Floor

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.

5:00pm-6:00pm

Welcome Reception

Ambassador III, 2nd Floor

Sponsored by Boomerang Carnets | CIB

6:30pm

YOD Dinner (Optional)

Chef Yu

520 Eighth Avenue (between 36th and 37th Streets)

More Information and RSVP Form (deadline is January 21)

Questions? Contact Diana Scoggins at dscoggins@playmys.org

Tuesday, January 27, 2026

7:30am-11:00am **Registration**
Broadway Foyer, 3rd Floor

8:00am-9:00am **Networking Breakfast**
Broadway Foyer, 3rd Floor
Sponsored by Notation-AI

9:00am-4:00pm **YOD Constituency Meetings**
Broadway II, 3rd Floor
Sponsored by Classical Movements

9:00am-10:30am **Embedding Change through Design Thinking**
Learn how to use Design Thinking as an inclusive tool to identify, ideate, align, and spark change within your organization.

Speakers: Jessica Phillips, Musician, Metropolitan Opera; Educator, The Juilliard School, Consultant, 11A Collaborative, Board Director, League of American Orchestras; and Julian Chender, Founder and Principal Consultant, 11A Collaborative

10:30am-10:45am **Break**

10:45am-12:15pm **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

12:15pm-1:45pm **Lunch on Your Own**

1:45pm-2:30 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

2:30pm-3:30pm **Option 1: Fueling a Big Vision with Laura MacDonald**
Broadway II, 3rd Floor

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

Broadway III, 3rd Floor

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

Wrap-Up and Feedback on Topics for Peer Calls and Conference

Broadway II, 3rd Floor

4:00pm-5:00pm

Cross-Constituency Debrief (Officers Only)

Broadway I, 3rd Floor

***Generous support for the League's Midwinter Managers Meeting
provided by:***

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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.*