

Position: Music Director & ESYO Symphony Orchestra Conductor

Type of Position: Full time salaried with benefits; reports to the Board of Directors

SUMMARY:

Empire State Youth Orchestra's Music Director engages youth in the joyful pursuit of musical excellence. The Music Director (MD) works in close collaboration with the Board and Executive Director and serves as the lead artistic liaison with community groups and educational institutions. The MD provides artistic leadership for the organization, and oversees the educational and artistic development of all ESYO students through rehearsals, performances, and collaboration with artistic staff. The MD maintains a standard of excellence among the artistic staff through interaction, evaluation, example, curricula and artistic leadership. The MD collaborates with the CHIME Administrative Director to ensure alignment between the CHIME program and the overall artistic vision of ESYO, and additionally provides support to CHIME faculty with respect to the inclusion of CHIME students into audition-based performing ensembles. The MD is an ambassador to the greater community including professional musicians, public and private school music teachers, and potential students. The MD is a musician of the highest quality, possesses a commanding ability to communicate through music, and is committed to inspiring young people to pursue excellence through music.

KEY RESPONSIBILITIES:

Artistic Leader

- Ensures a high level of musical excellence of all ensembles
- Articulates the artistic vision of ESYO through the development of new and engaging programs
- Collaborates with and supports conductors in realizing the scope and vision of ESYO
- Collaborates with the CHIME Administrative Director to support the development and advancement of CHIME
- Collaborates with the Education Coordinator to continuously assess the music education needs of all ESYO members. Supports the Education Coordinator in meeting those needs through enrichment, instruction, and other opportunities
- Identifies weaknesses in the recruitment pool and proposes remedies. For example, lack of double reeds
- Works collaboratively with the administrative staff to ensure that an audition process is in place that supports the educational mission of ESYO including how audition materials will be chosen, how auditions will be judged, how placement will be determined, and ensures students receive meaningful feedback.
- In addition to regular concerts, identifies and carries out various other performing opportunities such as event-specific concerts, tours, festivals, collaborations, etc.
- Works with the administrative staff to determine season schedule

Conductor

- Conducts the Symphony Orchestra at all rehearsals and performances (including international tours)
- Develops students' understanding and appreciation of orchestral performance skills
- Develops students' ability to learn parts independently and function in rehearsal and performance
- Performs tasks associated with maintaining a properly functioning orchestra such as assuring music is marked as needed, determining seating rotation, assuring extra instruments or ringers are available when needed
- Chooses repertoire to inspire and challenge players while maintaining the highest standard of performance
- Ensures that all repertoire is consistent with the educational mission of ESYO and the performance capabilities of the students by whom it will be performed

- Ensures that repertoire has appropriate instrumentation for all orchestra

Community Relations and Resource Development

- Works collaboratively with the Executive Director and Board in fostering community relations and partnerships
- As ESYO's lead artistic liaison with community groups, builds relationships with the various artistic stakeholders
- Participates in outreach activities such as school visits, media events, presentations, civic events, etc.
- Participates in activities aimed at raising funds to support ESYO; builds and cultivates relationships with potential donors

Administrative

- Serves as the lead spokesperson with students and parents on the artistic and educational mission of ESYO
- Exhibits a caring and supportive attitude when working with students
- Attends parent and student meetings and other parent/student ESYO activities
- In collaboration with the Executive Director and Board of Directors, oversees the recruitment and hiring of ESYO's artistic staff
- Actively supports and ensures professional growth and employee engagement in the organization
- Sets standards and evaluates performance of artistic staff
- Provides input to the annual budget process including staffing requirements, special equipment/instrument or music needs, programming budgets, etc.
- Ensures the administrative staff has the information needed from the artistic staff to be able to perform their administrative duties
- Participates in both operational and long-range planning activities
- Attends Board meetings and committee meetings as needed to provide artistic perspective on topics under consideration and to report on artistic activities
- Attends ESYO performances of all ensembles

QUALIFICATIONS:

- Orchestral conducting experience and broad knowledge of orchestral repertoire, demonstrated experience with concert programming and adolescent musical development
- Bachelor's Degree in Music or Music Education required; additional desired qualifications, M.M, D.M.A, or Ph.D. in Orchestral Conducting
- Ability to respect ESYO's distinguished legacy while possessing the courage to be "musically daring," offering a clear vision, method and style
- Fluency in English and ability to communicate effectively to students, staff, parents, and a wide range of audience members
- Ability to articulate and demonstrate a deep appreciation for, understanding of, and sensitivity to the needs of high performing youth
- Ability to maintain the highest artistic and educational standards while remaining supportive, patient, and approachable
- Broad knowledge of repertoire suitable for youth orchestras

HIRING PROCESS:

Candidates must submit the following materials to musicdirectorsearch@esy.org:

- Cover Letter addressing interest, experience with youth orchestras, salary history and expectations (PDF format)
- Curriculum Vitae (PDF format)
- A minimum of three (3) professional references with contact information (PDF format)

- Recent conducting videos (within 2 years) – 3-5 video links (ex. Youtube, Dropbox) totaling a maximum of 120 minutes representing both rehearsal and performance.
- Video or recording of a media interview and/or a concert talk is strongly encouraged, but not required.

DEADLINE AND HIRING TIMELINE:

- All materials must be received by April 3, 2021
- Zoom Interviews will take place in April and May
- Finalist auditions and interviews in late May/early June
- Appointment begins July, 2021

COMPENSATION:

- Commensurate with experience. Empire State Youth Orchestra offers a competitive salary and benefits package including health and dental insurance and a 403b retirement plan with matching contributions.

ORGANIZATIONAL INFORMATION:

esy.org

Empire State Youth Orchestra (ESYO) has provided outstanding music training and performance opportunities for young musicians from across New York’s Capital Region and Western New England since 1979. Beginning with a single orchestra nearly forty years ago, ESYO has grown to include ten performing ensembles, a chamber program and an inner-city music training program called CHIME. ESYO players are afforded exceptional learning opportunities with elite musicians, renowned conductors and passionate Teaching Artists. ESYO’s performing ensembles engage in over 600 hours of rehearsal per season and, combined, offer more than thirty public performances each year. ESYO has received three prestigious awards for its adventurous programming from the American Society of Composers, Artists, and Publishers (ASCAP) and has had five European tours and a tour to Asia which was sparked by an invitation to perform at the 2012 World Expo in Yeosu, South Korea.

ESYO’s progressive program supports students in elementary through high school, growing with them as they expand their musical and personal capabilities. Introductory ensembles, such as CHIME, Concertino Strings and Chamber Winds and Brass feed into ESYO’s String and Wind Orchestras, which lead to ESYO’s Repertory and Youth Orchestras. Additionally, ESYO has two Jazz ensembles and three Percussion ensembles. An ESYO member’s experience is about more than exceptional music; it is about building confidence, practicing teamwork, cultivating personal drive and honing critical thinking skills. ESYO alums become leaders in fields as diverse as engineering and art. They can also be found in all areas of the music industry—from national orchestras to recording studios to music classrooms.

ESYO also seeks to expand its impact beyond its members, believing that music can be a catalyst for social change. This belief is why ESYO has helped raise more than \$7 million for Albany Medical Center’s pediatric oncology program through the Melodies of Christmas concerts, and why, in 2015, ESYO launched Creating Harmony Inspiring Musical Excellence (CHIME). CHIME provides free, daily music instruction for children who might not otherwise have the opportunity to seriously pursue music. Through CHIME, ESYO hopes to ensure the musicians of tomorrow are as diverse as the communities they inspire.

NEW YORK’S CAPITAL REGION:

To learn a bit about the region, click on this [link](https://www.youtube.com/watch?time_continue=195&v=mMleILf9gXI) to watch the following brief video!
(https://www.youtube.com/watch?time_continue=195&v=mMleILf9gXI)