



Position: Music Director & ESYO Youth Orchestra Conductor

Full time; residency required

Reports to: Board of Directors

Direct Reports: Conductors, Operation Director, Coaches, Judges

ESYO offices are located in Schenectady, NY

SUMMARY:

The Empire State Youth Orchestra's Music Director engages youth in the joyful pursuit of musical excellence. S/he works in close collaboration with the Board and Executive Director to serve as the Principal Conductor and Artistic Leader of the organization, overseeing the artistic education of all ESYO students. The Music Director maintains a standard of excellence among the artistic staff through example, interaction, evaluation, development of curricula, and leadership. S/he is an ambassador to the greater community including professional musicians, public and private school music teachers, and potential students. The Music Director is a musician of the highest quality, possessing a commanding ability to conduct and communicate through music, and a commitment to inspire young people to pursue musical excellence.

RESPONSIBILITIES:

Conducting

- Conducts the ESYO Youth Orchestra at all rehearsals and performances (including international tours).
- Develops students' orchestral performance skills, including ability to learn parts independently and play accurately and musically in rehearsal and performance.
- Selects repertoire to inspire and challenge players while ensuring a high level of performance, consistent with the educational mission of ESYO.
- Assures that chosen repertoire engages all student musicians in the orchestra.
- Performs tasks associated with maintaining a properly functioning orchestra such as assuring music is marked as needed, determining seating rotation, assuring additional musicians are available when needed.

Artistic Leadership and Management

- Oversees the development and implementation of ESYO curriculum by artistic and coaching staff for all performing ensembles.
- Articulates ESYO's artistic and educational mission and engages in a continuous assessment of the music education experience of all ESYO members, proposing strategic revisions to meet new or changing needs.
- Recommends enrichment opportunities for all orchestras and ensembles, including, but not limited to, event-specific concerts, tours, festivals, collaborations.
- Supports the CHIME Director in the development and advancement of the CHIME program.
- Collaborates with the Board and Executive Director to recruit and hire ESYO conductors.
- Evaluates the performance of conducting staff, and recommends professional development opportunities to support continuous growth and improvement.
- Collaborates with the administrative staff to set a season performance calendar, and assures 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 and how placement will be determined.

- Attends all ESYO performances and parent/student meetings/activities, and leads on-going recruitment efforts.
- Informs the annual budget process including staffing requirements, special equipment/instrument or music needs, programming budgets, etc.
- Attends Board meetings and committee meetings and engages in long-range, strategic planning.

Community Engagement/Outreach

- Collaborates with the Board and Executive Director to cultivate relationships with arts groups, educational institutions and non-profit organizations in the community for the benefit of ESYO.
- Engages in outreach activities including, but not limited to, school visits, media events, presentations, civic events.
- Supports fundraising endeavors including, but not limited to, visits with potential donors, and presenting at special fundraising functions.

QUALIFICATIONS:

- Orchestral conducting experience and broad knowledge of orchestral repertoire, concert programming, and adolescent musical development.
- Degree in music, music education or equivalent experience required: MM, DMA or Artist Diploma.
- 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.
- Excellent interpersonal and communication skills.
- Ability to respect ESYO's distinguished legacy while possessing the courage to present a clear vision, method and style.

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.

SEARCH AND DECISION MAKING TIMELINE

October 3-November 5, 2017	Materials Accepted
Late November, 2017	Skype/Phone interview scheduled with Semi-finalists

December, 2017/early January, 2018	Semi-finalist Skype/phone interviews
Late February/early March, 2018	Finalist interviews in Schenectady, NY
April/May, 2018	Announcement of the new Music Director
July 1, 2018	Appointment Begins

Salary and benefit compensation shall be determined via formal action of the Board of Directors at the time of hire and can be discussed during the interview process
All finalists will be required to undergo a background check

BACKGROUND: Empire State Youth Orchestra
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 our region, click on this [link](https://www.youtube.com/watch?time_continue=195&v=mMlellf9gXI) to watch the following brief video!
(https://www.youtube.com/watch?time_continue=195&v=mMlellf9gXI)