



Position Announcement: Music Director/Conductor

The Jackson Symphony welcomes nominations and applications for the position of Music Director/Conductor, available beginning in the 2025-2026 season.

The Position

The Music Director/Conductor is responsible for the operation and artistic vision of the orchestra and the fulfillment of the orchestra's artistic potential and image in the community. She/he is responsible for the profile, quality, and development of the orchestra and artistic staff and has ultimate authority for the selection, development, and replacement of musicians. As the orchestra's artistic leader, she/he must build and sustain the orchestra's visibility and involvement in the community and is responsible for repertoire, programming, and artistic production. The Music Director/Conductor is expected to work in close collaboration with the executive director, board of directors, and staff in carrying out these responsibilities and to be a visible presence in the local community and actively participate in the orchestra's fundraising activities.

Candidate Profile

The ideal candidate will possess exceptional musicianship and conducting skills; significant conducting experience, including work with professional musicians; knowledge and experience with a broad range of masterworks and Pops repertoire; strong interpersonal, leadership, collaboration, and communication skills; vision, passion, and ability to make symphonic music relevant and exciting for existing and new audiences; and an active appreciation for the importance of embracing the performance of Pops music and other newer trends such as live film performances. Previous or current music directorship and fundraising experience preferred.

The Orchestra

Nestled in West Tennessee between Memphis and Nashville is Jackson—home of The Jackson Symphony. Jackson is a city that's unique, vibrant, offers high value living and is making its mark on the world, and The Jackson Symphony has anchored the region's performing arts for 64 years. What began as a small community orchestra in 1961 has developed into a professional symphony, employing 65-70 musicians from throughout the southeast. The orchestra's season includes a seven concert subscription series, encompassing three symphonic presentations, three Pops performances, and one film concert. In addition, the annual free community concert, Starlight Symphony, draws more than 5000 each season, has been beloved for 44 years, and was recently named the city's "Best Annual Event" for 2024.

As the only arts organization in the region designated a "Major Cultural Institution" by the Tennessee Arts Commission, The Jackson Symphony has experienced year over year audience growth performing for over 35,000 annually. The Jackson Symphony has more than doubled its size in the last six years moving from a Level 8 to Level 5 orchestra with The League of American Orchestras.

The Jackson Symphony is strongly committed to offering a robust array of classical and Pops entertainment options for its audiences. This season the orchestra performed its first live film concert, Disney's *Hocus Pocus In Concert Live To Film*, to a sold-out venue. The orchestra has not shied away from contemporary programming, including commissioning new works. Highlights from recent seasons include guest artists such as violinist Elmar Oliveira, tenor Anthony Kearns, soprano Tara Erraught, cellist Konstantin Heidrich, and double bass player Joseph Conyers.

Contemporary pieces have included Richard Sortomme "Violin concerto" (soloist Elmar Olivera/world premiere), John B. Hedges "Prayers of Rain and Wind" (soloist Joseph Conyers), Eric Huang "Odyssey Suite" (world premiere), Lowe Finney "Frontier Overture" (world premiere), and Daniel Musselman "Old Hickory at the East Portico" (world premiere) As part of their 2023-24 season, the orchestra performed Michael Tippett's 4th symphony.

The Jackson Symphony is governed by a 30-member board of directors and is supported by a nine-member professional staff. The Jackson Symphony League comprises more than 150 volunteer members who support the orchestra through fundraising, special events, and educational activities while increasing visibility throughout the community. The Jackson Symphony operates debt free with a balanced budget. The current operating budget is \$1.6 million, with a newly established endowment that currently tops a half million dollars. With only three conductors/music directors over its history, The Jackson Symphony is recognized as a stable and valuable organization by the community and its leaders.

With affordable housing, welcoming residents, quality education options, top jobs, entertainment, recreation, retail, and healthcare, Jackson serves as the regional hub for more than 300,000 people. Thanks to six colleges and universities within a one-hour drive of the city center, Ford Motor Company's massive BlueOval City bringing thousands of jobs to the region, and its strategic location between two cities known for their musical heritage, the opportunities for art and cultural growth in Jackson are endless.

Compensation

Compensation, including benefits, is competitive and commensurate with experience and qualifications.

Applications

Application must include: candidate's personal letter of interest, short resume, sample programs conducted, and names and phone numbers of at least three professional references. DVD recordings may be submitted with application materials. No phone inquiries, please. The Jackson Symphony is an equal opportunity employer.

Please submit resume and letter of interest by 12/1/24 to:

The Jackson Symphony
Sherry Freeman, Executive Director
Music Director/Conductor Search
207 E Lafayette St
Jackson, TN 38301
sfreeman@thejacksonsymphony.org

(MS Word, PDF or text attachments only please)

To learn more about The Jackson Symphony, go to www.thejacksonsymphony.org