

Music CentriCITY | Student Content
June 3-5, 2019 | Nashville, TN
Omni Nashville Hotel | 250 5th Ave S, Nashville, TN 37203

At the League's 74th National Conference, we will place music, musicians, and composers at the center of our conversations, recognizing that their voices and their work bring creativity, innovation, and inspiration to orchestras' continuing adaptation to a rapidly changing world. We will explore the new frontiers of "excellence" that last year's keynote speakers, and indeed, our environment, call upon us to pursue. We will continue to embrace the principles of equity, diversity, and inclusion that must remain in the forefront of our national conversation and action.

This year, we hope to engage regional college students at our conference through volunteer opportunities as well as curated content especially relevant to emerging professionals. **If you are interested in being a student volunteer, please reach out to Kathleen McCracken, Director of Volunteer Services at the Nashville Symphony at kmccracken@nashvillesymphony.org or 615-687-6542.**

Student participation is free to those students who volunteer their time. Students will be able to attend each day of the conference free of charge on the day that the volunteer.

The following is a selection of conference content that has been designed to appeal to student attendees to are looking to gain a broader understanding of the American orchestral landscape in the 21st Century. This is a suggested list and students can attend most sessions, excluding constituency meetings and paid pre-conference seminars. For a full listing of League Conference content, visit our conference website at www.leagueconference2019.org.

Session of Interest to Students:

The Future Symphony Musician | Free Workshop for Students

Monday, June 3, 2019
10:00am—12:00pm

Who is the future symphony musician? What do they see, hear, think, do and say? We apply our perspective as leaders in one of the world's foremost conservatory professional development programs to provide a snapshot of the orchestral musician of the future.

Music students today are graduating into real problems -- escalating student loan debt, prohibitively expensive health insurance, skyrocketing cost of living, employment insecurity, and a host of sociopolitical problems -- all unfolding in the midst of an environmental crisis that places the question of a liveable future into sharper relief. The impact is a cohort of classical musicians who have raised the bar on social responsibility in our field, and carry a greater purpose beyond music for music's sake.

We complement this perspective with an analysis of work trends (purpose work, telecommuting) and management styles (results-based, flexible hours) that reveal new ways in which management and musicians can partner to amplify music's impact in the community.

Students wishing to attend this seminar must RSVP to Derek Weagle at dweagle@americanorchestras.org.

Speakers: Tanya Kalmanovitch, Assistant Professor, The New School University Mannes School of Music; Annie Phillips, Associate Dean of Entrepreneurial Musicianship, New England Conservatory

Opening Plenary

Monday, June 3, 2019

1:00 PM – 2:30 PM

Giancarlo Guerrero, music director, Martha & Bronson Ingram Music Director Chair will lead us, as he has led the Nashville Symphony, on an exploration of what it means to be an orchestra in the America of today. As a champion of new music, he has commissioned and performed dozens of works by American composers from an extraordinary array of stylistic influences. Guerrero will explore how musical convictions must inform an orchestra's authentic connection to its community and reflect an active cultivation of diverse talent.

Additionally, students engaged in the Nashville Symphony's Accelerando initiative will perform during the Opening Plenary, premiering a new work by composer Christopher Farrell. The Accelerando initiative is an intensive music education program designed to prepare gifted young students of diverse ethnic backgrounds to pursue music at the collegiate level and beyond. Accelerando seeks to create professional opportunities for musicians from ethnic communities underrepresented in today's orchestras by providing them with instruction, mentorship, performance experiences, and assistance with applying to music schools

At Home and Abroad: The Orchestra as Agent of Change

Tuesday, June 4, 2019

9:00 AM – 10:15 AM

Orchestras are increasingly framing their concerts and programs to address timely global issues and international communities, whether by more dynamically connecting international tours to those they serve at home, or by addressing displaced populations in their own communities. This session features a discussion of the ways in which orchestras can be agents of change through international artistry—and why it is important and worthwhile to do so.

Speakers: John Forsythe, president and CEO, Pacific Symphony; Neeta Helms, president, Classical Movements; Eun Lee, executive director, The Dream Unfinished

Musicians Transforming Communities

Tuesday, June 4, 2019

9:00 AM – 10:15 AM

What makes community engagement successful? Recipients of the League's Ford Musician Awards for Excellence in Community Service and others share the elements of their practice that contribute to individual transformation and lasting community impact. They'll discuss their work in health care, educational, and other community settings and they'll relay the musical, strategic, and organizational skills required for high-impact results.

Speakers: Aimee Halbrunner, director of education & community engagement, Richmond Symphony; panelists, Ford Musician Awards winners (to be announced)

New Voices: Composers of Today

Tuesday, June 4, 2019

11:15 AM – 12:30 PM

Join us for an introduction to four emerging composers whose unique compositional voices-- increasingly informed by political, social, and cultural forces--are making an impact in concert halls across the country. Learn about their orchestral output; how they view their music, as creators, in an art form responding to change; and the ever-increasing role composers play in nurturing the fabric of their communities as teachers, community educators, concert curators and producers, entrepreneurs, musicians, and conductors.

Speakers: Reena Esmail, composer; Daniel Bernard Roumain, composer; Derrick Spiva Jr., composer, Los Angeles Chamber Orchestra / Code Switch Composers Collective / Bridge to Everywhere; Alex Temple, composer, lecturer, Northwestern University; Evan Williams, composer

Auditions, Identity, and Culture

Tuesday, June 4,
2:30pm- 3:45pm

Four musicians of color, each leading and giving shape to the national conversation on race and ethnicity in orchestras, reflect on their audition experience, with and without screens, and on their paths navigating orchestras' predominantly white, Western European culture.

Speakers: Alex Laing, Shea Scruggs, Weston Sprott, Additional Speaker TBA

Artistic Excellence and Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion: A Moderated Debate

Tuesday, June 4, 2019
2:30 PM – 3:45 PM

Our understanding of the term “artistic excellence” is in flux, redefined by orchestras across the U.S. who are forging new forms of artistic engagement and collaboration with the diverse communities they serve. Yet this work often challenges the traditions, organizational practices, and cultural norms that, for many, define the work of orchestras. In this session, two key leaders from our field (Jesse Rosen, president and CEO of the League of American Orchestras and Ed Yim, president of American Composers Orchestra) will face a panel of orchestra colleagues to debate some of the apparent tensions and opportunities underpinning this work. Do inclusive practices inhibit or expand on our notions of artistic excellence? What assumptions do we hold, as a field, that might limit the extent to which equity, diversity, and inclusion can enrich the artistic life of our orchestras? And what does “artistic excellence” really mean, in today’s diverse—and divided—America?

Speakers: Jesse Rosen, president and CEO, League of American Orchestras; Edward Yim, president, American Composers Orchestra

The Musicians' Perspective: Creating Collaborative Cultures in Orchestras

Wednesday, June 5, 2019
9:00 AM – 10:15 AM

Some orchestras are highly collaborative with board, staff, and musicians well aligned; some others would argue that if each constituent part does its job at a high level, there is not much need to collaborate; and some others are outright adversarial. There are probably as many cultures as there are orchestras. A panel of musicians will tackle the question of culture, the often unspoken yet powerful force that drives organizations more than strategy or individual leaders. They'll consider how culture can support innovation and empowerment, as well as the role culture can play in setting and achieving organizational goals and delivering on mission.

Speakers: Kevin Jablonski, section bass, Nashville Symphony; Alex Laing, principal clarinet, The Phoenix Symphony; Bradley Mansell, cellist, Nashville Symphony; Laura Ross, second violin, Nashville Symphony

Engaging the LGBTQ+ Community

Wednesday, June 5, 2019

11:15 AM – 12:30 PM

In this session, orchestra professionals and artists alike discuss events and artistic projects that bring the LGBTQ+ community into focus and welcome their engagement. Examining the successes and challenges of participants' engagement with the LGBTQ+ community, panelists will lead a discussion on how to respond to the needs of their local communities.

Speakers: Daryn Bauer, community engagement manager, The Florida Orchestra; Julie Desbordes, conductor, the Queer Urban Orchestra; Miguel Garcia, marketing and engagement manager, Chicago Sinfonietta; Leo Hurley, composer; Laura Reynolds, VP of education & community engagement, Seattle Symphony

Closing Plenary

Wednesday, June 5, 2019

1:30 PM – 3:00 PM

Renowned composer and conductor Tania León will center on the progress our field has made supporting equity for composers and on her own journey from Cuba to the U.S. León will examine what the field needs to do to continue to progress towards parity and how she overcame professional challenges, promotes equality through the music she creates, and uses new music to celebrate and recognize other cultures. Central to the core of her message, León will explore the importance of rebuilding the bridge between the music of North and Latin America and how the interplay of cultures expands creative possibility.

Also on the program: Joan Tower, one of America's most significant living composers, will receive the Gold Baton, the League's highest honor.

Speakers: Tania León, composer & conductor, founding artistic director, Composers Now
Joan Tower, composer, 2019 Gold Baton recipient