

The logo for the Symphony of the Southwest features the text "SYMPHONY of the SOUTHWEST" in a serif font. The word "of" is in a smaller, italicized font. Above the text are three red stars of varying sizes, arranged in a slight arc.

# SYMPHONY *of the* SOUTHWEST

## Position Description: Music Director and Principal Conductor

The SSW Music Director and Principal Conductor is responsible for the artistic operation of the orchestra and will conduct the orchestra in each of the primary concerts given in each concert season. The person who holds this position exercises authority in artistic matters according to the guidelines established by the Board of Directors and mutually agreed upon at the time of engagement. The Music Director will work in close consultation with the Board President, members of the Board and any Musician Committee that may be appointed to represent the orchestra members.

## Qualifications

### General

- Significant musical talent and a proven ability to provide a performance experience of the highest caliber.
- Thorough knowledge of the orchestral repertoire and styles, including orchestral concert music, works for chamber orchestra, operas, and oratorios.
- Instinct for developing imaginative programming ideas that have significance to the orchestra, the occasion, and the community. A willingness to explore a variety of directions in music-making and experience in diverse repertoire.
- Effective musical and personal leadership in order to audition and select orchestral players, assign seating, and select solo players.
- Ability to motivate and elicit the best efforts of the orchestra musicians.
- Awareness of current solo artists, contemporary repertoire, and performance practice.
- Comprehensive knowledge of the history of music, the visual arts, literature, and drama.
- Minimum Bachelor of Music (BM), Bachelor of Arts (BA), or Bachelor of Fine Arts (BFA) college degree with an emphasis on Conducting.
- Minimum 3 years' experience conducting a symphony orchestra or equivalent ensemble.

### Technical and Performance

- An acute ear for orchestral intonation, balance, and color, with advanced skills in score-reading and transposition.
- Practical knowledge and understanding of all instruments used in orchestral performance, with functional keyboard skills.
- Advanced skills in musical analysis based on professional competence in counterpoint, harmony, composition, musical structures, and orchestration.
- Mastery of at least one instrument and experience as a solo, chamber, or orchestral performer to enable the development of musical insight, understanding of and sensitivity to the musician's point of view.

## Conducting

- An effective baton technique that maintains the continuity of the overall performance of a work while evoking and controlling response by gesture at all levels of musical detail.
- An effective and efficient rehearsal technique that balances attention to technical details with communication of overall interpretive goals.
- A podium presence sufficient to enhance the quality of music-making and support the musicians' physical and emotional well-being.
- Must have a distinct rapport with the audience.

## Administrative and Personal

- Basic knowledge of the orchestra association as a nonprofit organization, with an understanding and appreciation of the roles of the Board, the personnel manager, the musicians, and the volunteers.
- Openness to the ideas of others and an ability to inspire creativity.
- Concern for the effect the music director has on the professional lives and performance quality of the musicians.
- Ability to operate within established budgetary limits.
- Commitment to fulfilling the orchestra's potential as an artistic and community resource. Willingness to become involved in the life of the community.
- Ability to inspire and communicate musically and verbally with audiences of all ages, both on and off the stage.
- An understanding of the Mesa, Arizona audience and the surrounding communities.
- A resident of Arizona, or a nearby state within a few hours' travel of Mesa Arizona.
- Must have the means to travel to site quickly for rehearsals and performances if not residing locally.

## Responsibilities

- Conduct concerts as agreed upon by contract, currently a minimum of four (4) concerts per concert season. The season typically extends from October/November through March/April, subject to the availability of the primary venues. Note that we are looking to expand the number of concerts.
- Work with the organization, including the Board President, members of the Board and the Musician Committee, in developing and planning the orchestral artistic season and communicate effectively with all entities.
- Select guest artists (and guest conductors when necessary), recruiting permanent and supplemental musicians, and determining the number of rehearsals and kind of rehearsals.
- Collaborate with community arts organizations and initiatives.
- Communicate with the orchestra staff including the Board President, Personnel Manager, Librarian and venue Stage Manager in a timely and effective manner.
- Commit to fulfilling the orchestra's potential as an artistic and community resource and a willingness to participate in the promotional endeavors of the orchestra.
- Assist in the general promotion of the orchestra by being available for public appearances and fundraising activities.
- Demonstrate a concern for the effect the conductor has on the professional lives and performance quality of the musicians.