



SYMPHONY *of the* SOUTHWEST

The Symphony of the Southwest is seeking a new Music Director and Principal Conductor, to be available at the beginning of the 2024-2025 Concert Season.

The Position

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. The Position requirements are fully described in the **Position Description** document that may be downloaded by clicking this [link](#).

The Orchestra

The Symphony of the Southwest resides in the city of Mesa, Arizona, the largest city in the East Valley of the Phoenix Metropolitan area, also known as the Valley of the Sun. As of the 2020 census, the city of Mesa has more than 500,000 residents and the Phoenix Metro area is home to about 4.8 million people. The Symphony was founded in 1956 by Mesa Public School music educators, and is now celebrating its 67th concert season. It is the primary professional orchestra in the East Valley, and a Resident Company of the world-class Mesa Arts Center, which is its primary performance venue.

Since 2006, the Symphony has been under the baton of Maestro Cal Stewart Kellogg, and is the East Valley community's classical music source for symphonic concerts presented to audiences of all ages and backgrounds. Maestro Kellogg is retiring from the Symphony in April 2024, at the end of the current season.

The Symphony is a registered 501(c)3 non-profit organization, and it is supported by the ticket sales of its patrons, as well as generous donations from private individuals and grants from several well-known arts and cultural foundations.

Our regular season consists of several classical and pops concerts performed at the Mesa Arts Center. In addition, Chamber groups from the orchestra have given performances in numerous East and West Valley locations.

Our Vision

To become the first choice for symphonic and classical music for residents of the East Valley, and to bring the joy of music to the community in the Greater Phoenix Area, the State of Arizona and the Southwest region of the United States.

Our Mission

To enrich the community through quality musical performances and educational programs for people of all ages, backgrounds and economic levels. Our strategic goals include:

- Audience development: Building long-term sustainable, and diverse patron relationships that cultivate brand loyalty across the East Valley and greater Phoenix area.
- Education: Providing educational and community engagement programs that bring the joy of music to our local and regional communities
- Financial strength: Ensuring the enduring financial growth of the organization, and providing incremental funding support for the needs of the strategic plan
- Human capital: Attracting, engaging and retaining top talent in musicians, staff and volunteers so that we ensure and develop the full potential of the organization's human resources
- Technology: Using technology to effectively advertise concerts, enhance administrative functions, and other programs, as well as certain priorities in key issue areas of the strategic plan
- Venue: Presenting programs in venues that provide the highest quality experiences for audiences and musicians

Board of Directors

Kathi Roark, President

Mark Converti, Vice-President

Katrina King, Secretary/Treasurer

Patricia Cosand

Grayson Meadows

Applications

To apply for the position of Music Director and Conductor, please submit the following:

- A personal letter of interest addressed to the Symphony Board of Directors.
- A short resumé.
- The names and phone numbers of at least three professional references.
- Video recordings of rehearsals and/or performances. These may consist of YouTube links, digital downloads or DVD files.
- Using our library list as a source, create an example concert season (3 classical concerts + a holiday concert). The list may be found at this [link](#).

Please submit applications by Tuesday, April 30, 2024 to:

symphonyofthesouthwest@gmail.com

(documents should be in MS Word or PDF format)

Mailing address:

Symphony of the Southwest Music Director Search

Symphony of the Southwest

2109 E Greenway Drive

Tempe, AZ 85282

Selection Process

Candidates selected in the first round will agree to conduct at least one concert in the 2024/25 season. At the end of the season, a music director finalist will be chosen to prepare and conduct the entire 2025/26 season. The finalist will be evaluated at the end of the season, and if approved will be chosen as the tenured music director.

Salary

The salary range will be discussed with Board President at the time of application.