



NEW YORK STATE SUMMER SCHOOL OF THE ARTS
NEW YORK STATE OFFICE OF CULTURAL EDUCATION
CULTURAL EDUCATION CENTER, ROOM 10D79
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Executive Director

NEW YORK STATE SUMMER SCHOOL OF THE ARTS
SCHOOL OF ORCHESTRAL STUDIES
Job Description – Artistic Director

The New York State Summer School of the Arts, School of Orchestral Studies (SOS) is accepting applications for the position of Artistic Director/Conductor. One of seven four-week summer residential programs administered by the New York State Education Department, SOS offers pre-professional orchestral training for approximately 95 high school students from across New York State. This 46 year old program was begun by Eugene Ormandy as a partnership between the Philadelphia Orchestra, Saratoga Performing Arts Center (SPAC), New York State Education Department, and Skidmore College, a partnership continuing to this day in which students work in small groups with members of the Philadelphia Orchestra, rehearse at Skidmore's state of the art Zankel Music Center, attend Philadelphia Orchestra concerts, and perform a final concert on the SPAC stage.

The core of the School of Orchestral Studies is the Symphonic Orchestra, traditionally supplemented by a Wind Ensemble and String Orchestra. The students' ensemble experience is rounded out with participation in chamber music groups. The large ensembles traditionally perform three concerts over the course of the program, two occurring approximately halfway through the school and one at the end. SOS students are immersed in music, spending approximately eight hours each day in rehearsals/sectionals and attending all Philadelphia Orchestra concerts at SPAC. More information is available at www.oce.nysed.gov/nysssa/SOS.

Position Overview

The Artistic Director is responsible for achieving the mission of the New York State Summer School of the Arts (NYSSSA) School of Orchestral Studies. The program takes place in Saratoga Springs, NY. The Artistic Director will develop and implement the school's program, hire Associate Conductors (String and Wind Ensemble) in consultation with the NYSSSA Administrative Office, conduct a daily Symphonic Orchestra rehearsal of 95 high school aged musicians of All-State caliber, and oversee our public performances. Additional faculty for the program is comprised of members of the Philadelphia Orchestra retained in consultation with the NYSSSA Philadelphia Orchestra Liaison. The Artistic Director will support the collaborative relationship with the Philadelphia Orchestra, SPAC and Skidmore College.

Minor responsibilities are required throughout the year, with major responsibilities in the summer (July and August) during the operation of the program.

Pre-Program Responsibilities

Assist the NYSSSA Albany office with the organization of the general aspects of the School of Orchestral Studies program, in conjunction with the NYSSSA Philadelphia Orchestra Liaison and the Assistant Director for Administration, prior to arriving on campus.

Hire faculty and/or visiting/lecturing artists as determined by curriculum offerings and budget allocations. This includes securing a member of the Philadelphia Orchestra to participate as a soloist with the NYSSSA Orchestra.

Meet with instructional staff, NYSSSA Albany Office Representative and Assistant Director for Administration to review basic procedures and program expectations as a part of a general orientation prior to the school's opening.

Select repertoire, traditionally inspired by that of the Philadelphia Orchestra during their summer residency at SPAC.

Consult with faculty regarding repertoire, instructional materials and classes.

Program Responsibilities

Meet, as necessary, with the faculty and Assistant Director for Administration regarding program administration.

Audition students and oversee placement.

Conduct a daily symphonic orchestra rehearsal (Monday through Saturday).

Review teaching schedule with instructors in cooperation with the Assistant Director for Administration to maximize the use of all students' time and skills.

Submit, in writing, concert programs and notes (as appropriate) by the end of the week prior to a public concert.

Other duties as required.

Post Program Responsibilities

Provide an assessment of the program to the NYSSSA Albany office.

Assist the NYSSSA Albany Office in recruiting students for the Orchestral Studies program via your professional and educational contacts within the State of New York.

Qualifications

NYSSSA is seeking candidates with vision, passion and commitment to working with talented teen artists. Prior experience conducting an orchestral ensemble in a professional setting preferred. Experience conducting youth orchestras or other student ensembles at the collegiate level is desirable.

The ideal candidate will have strong leadership and personal communication skills, particularly with young people, excellent rehearsal technique, knowledge of literature suitable for youth orchestras and a demonstrated history of artistic achievement and creative vision.

NYSSSA seeks a strong leader, off as well as on the podium, with vision and ideas to carry NYSSSA SOS into the future.

Compensation

The Artistic Director is provided with faculty housing at Skidmore College in Saratoga Springs, NY and a stipend of \$7,500-\$8,000 commensurate with experience.

Application Process

Qualified applicants must submit a cover letter, resume, list of at least three references or three letters of recommendation (to be sent sealed and under separate cover by the recommending person). A short video sample of the candidate's conducting is strongly encouraged.

Please send materials by November 3rd to:

NYSSSA
Attn: Sara Fittizzi, Executive Director
Cultural Education Center Room 10D79
Albany, NY 12230

Or via email to: nysssa@mail.nysed.gov
(Please call (518) 474-8773 to confirm receipt of emailed materials.)