

BEAR VALLEY MUSIC FESTIVAL

Music Director

Summary

The Bear Valley Music Festival (BVMF) seeks a Music Director, to succeed Michael Morgan. Michael was the third Music Director of the Bear Valley Music Festival, leading the organization for 8 years before his passing just after our 2021 season. He brought fresh new ideas to the festival programming each summer, and taught our community to appreciate a wide variety of repertoire and artists. His successor will benefit from the strong foundation Michael set, and we seek someone to continue to grow and push the Festival creatively forward.

The Music Director is responsible for the overall artistic direction of the Festival, and directly leads the orchestra's musical preparation, development, and offerings. S/he conducts all orchestra concerts, and is a visible partner in the Festival's efforts to grow the audience and further build community support. The ideal candidate will bring fresh, innovative programming ideas to the Festival while helping our community to appreciate and enjoy a wide repertoire and artists.

Employment will commence on or before April 1, 2022. The MD's first priority will be to plan the orchestral offerings for the next Festival which will be held starting in late July 2022.

About the Bear Valley Music Festival

The Bear Valley Music Festival (BVMF) is a 53-year-old annual summer event in Bear Valley, California, located 180 miles east of San Francisco at an elevation just above 7100 feet in the Sierra Nevada. The BVMF is a non-profit organization dedicated to serving the Bear Valley community, the California Highway 4 corridor, as well as the Greater San Francisco Bay Area and the Central Valley.

Our mission is to deliver high-quality live music that brings people together in our naturally beautiful mountain setting. The concerts are held in a tent holding almost 500 people, erected to serve as a concert hall and equipped with a stage large enough to accommodate a full symphony orchestra. Most years, our orchestra size is about 50-55 musicians. Our musicians come from all over the country, many having played in the orchestra for a decade or longer. They are professional musicians, playing with major orchestras and chamber groups and/or holding prestigious teaching positions. The BVMF is not a union organization.

While our roots are proudly in classical music, we embrace and program a diverse range of music. For many years the BVMF has run for two full weeks including three weekends. Typically, that includes 8 classical concerts and 5 non-classical concerts (tributes, rock, bluegrass, etc). During our 2021 season, we shortened the festival to one week including two weekends, due to COVID challenges. The 2022 season is currently under discussion, as is the length of the festival in subsequent years. The festival traditionally begins on the second-to-last Friday in July.

Thanks to a loyal donor base and a supportive community, the BVMF is in a strong financial position. We have an annual operating budget of about \$400K, cash reserves and a growing endowment fund. We ran a Festival in 2021 to record-breaking audiences and unprecedented donations. We have a small, dedicated staff, a world class production crew, an active board made up of 18 community members and a large contingent of loyal volunteers.

Duties and responsibilities:

The Music Director works collaboratively with the Board and Executive Director to establish and articulate a compelling artistic direction for the Bear Valley Music Festival. S/he will lead the artistic side of the programming process with primary focus on classical offerings, but will influence the entire festival line-up. The Music Director must enthusiastically embrace all sorts of music and contribute to the overall vision for the entire Festival. The Festival's symphonic offerings include full orchestra concerts, and may include educational concerts, pops concerts, chamber concerts, as well as special events. The Music Director shall exercise primary authority over artistic matters while closely coordinating with the Executive Director on marketing, production, and budgeting. S/he reports to the Board of Directors, and works closely and cooperatively with the board and Executive Director in pursuing the organization's objectives.

Principal duties include:

- Provide the overall artistic vision for the Festival.
- Select and schedule classical and other symphonic programs to be performed.
- Conduct all orchestral concerts of the Festival.
- Recruit orchestra musicians as needed.
- Select guest artists in consultation with the Executive Director.
- Advise the Executive Director and Board Programming Committee in the selection of crossover and non- classical concerts, and ideally help make connections with interesting non-classical acts.
- Work within budgetary guidelines for orchestra concerts including orchestra size and guest artists.
- Make every effort to ensure the financial success of the Festival by actively working with the Board and Executive Director in fundraising, marketing, and public relations activities.
- Engage with patrons by speaking at concerts and other public events.
- Meet with donors and assist with donor cultivation activities.
- Attend Board and/or committee meetings as requested and possible.

Expectations:

The Music Director/Conductor has experience leading professional orchestras with wide-ranging musical and cultural interests. S/he must be an excellent communicator, and be able to inspire musicians, board members, and staff. S/he must be accomplished at cultivating appropriate relationships with all stakeholders including the orchestra, board, staff, donors, community, and guest artists.

The ideal candidate will possess many, if not all, of the following qualities:

- Ability to communicate a clear artistic direction which inspires others.
- Exceptional musical and conducting skills appropriate to a varied repertoire.
- Effective and efficient rehearsal technique that emphasizes working collaboratively with musicians.
- Collaborates effectively with a board of directors, Executive Director and staff, musicians, and volunteers to create an artistically strong and financially sound organization.
- Flexibility to balance tradition with new programming ideas.
- Open minded consideration of how to incorporate non-classical acts to create a diverse programming mix.
- Understanding of marketing needs and the willingness to program in recognition of those needs.
- Temperament to handle situations of stress, disagreement or conflict with maturity and diplomacy.
- Love of the great outdoors, or at the least tolerance of the challenges that a semi-outdoor rehearsal and performance venue at a high altitude (7100 ft) can present.
- Residency during the annual Festival is required, with housing provided.

Application process:

Please submit the following *via email only* to search@bearvalleymusicfestival.org.

1. A one-page cover letter
2. A one-page biography
3. A resume, not to exceed 3 pages
4. Links to videos

Please DO NOT SEND DVDs or other hard copy items, and no phone calls will be answered. Initial screening begins on October 23, 2021.

The Search Committee will review all submissions and contact you regarding your status and next steps in the process by November 11, 2021. Additional materials may be requested at that time.

About Bear Valley

Bear Valley is a small community on Highway 4 nestled between Lake Tahoe and Yosemite in the High Sierra. The community prides itself in being the “anti-Tahoe,” with none of the crowds and traffic, yet with all the beauty and outdoor fun. The town is made up primarily of second homeowners, with a full-time population of about 100 people. Bear Valley is primarily known for its winter activities, with the Bear Valley Resort downhill ski area 5 minutes up Highway 4, the world-class Bear Valley Cross Country center directly across the highway, and snowmobiling and back country ski adventures right out the backdoor. In the summer, people enjoy hiking, boating, swimming, mountain biking and road biking in the surrounding area, much of which is National Forest land. The Music Festival is the “must-attend” event of the summer, drawing people from all the surrounding communities as well as the San Francisco Bay Area to enjoy high quality live music in the beautiful mountain setting.

More information can be found at bearvalleymusicfestival.org.

Bear Valley Music Festival is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

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