

Berkeley Youth Orchestra

Position Title: Music Director and Conductor

Reports to: President of the Board

Status: Part-time

Berkeley Youth Orchestra (BYO) seeks a seasoned and passionate music educator and conductor to fill the position of Music Director and Conductor beginning in the 2024-2025 season. This role is responsible for nurturing young musicians through setting the musical direction in consultation with the BYO Board and supporting the administrative leadership.

The Organization

Berkeley Youth Orchestra (BYO) is a 501(c)(3) non profit organization located in Oakland, CA. Founded over fifty years ago, BYO is a welcoming, nurturing community with three seasonal concerts featuring a full orchestral repertoire and one or more community outreach performances with the full orchestra or ensembles. In addition to the full orchestra, there is also a BYO Chamber Orchestra consisting of a smaller number of musicians.

Position Overview

The Music Director for the Berkeley Youth Orchestra provides artistic leadership and oversees the training and development of all musicians. The Music Director is an ambassador to the greater community including professional musicians, private instrument instructors, public and private school music teachers, and prospective students.

This position reports to the President of the Board, collaborates with the Board of Directors, and works closely with Artists in Residence to coach the musicians. The MD attends monthly board meetings, and carries out all required duties in a manner consistent with the policies, procedures, goals and objectives established by the BYO.

Essential job duties and responsibilities

As Music Director

- In partnership with the BYO Board, develop a total education program that matches the financial scope of the organization.
- Work collaborative with the staff and Artists in Residence in furtherance of the BYO objectives. Meet bi-weekly with the Board President around issues of importance to the organization.
- Develop curricula for chamber and full orchestra including one retreat that reflects the organization's mission and values.
- Establish relationships with community organizations to foster recognition of BYO, identify performance opportunities for orchestras and ensembles, and encourage fundraising. Plan and interface with musical partner organizations.

- Write recommendations upon request of BYO students.

As Conductor

- Conduct all **Chamber and Orchestra** rehearsals, dress rehearsals, annual Retreat, up to three seasonal performances plus one or more outreach performances in the community with the full orchestra or ensembles. All concerts will be scheduled and organized in consultation with the BYO Board President.
- Develop musical standards for students through the appropriate selection of repertoire, sectional coachings, and interaction with professional musicians and other innovative programming.
- Select the repertoire for the Chamber and Orchestra in consultation with the BYO Board to ensure a quality performance in the assigned number of rehearsals for each concert. This includes determining and meeting deadlines for programming and scheduling of rehearsals and sectionals.
- Work with the Librarian and one or more Artists-in-Residence to prepare all string parts including bowings and fingerings, and prepare woodwinds, brass and percussion parts with measure numbers and phrase markings.
- Participate in annual auditions, evaluating the skills and techniques of BYO applicants and advise on audition requirements. Make the final determination of applicants to be accepted and their placement within the Orchestra, Chamber and/or ensembles. Provide seating assignments using the guidelines of the BYO Seating Policy and in collaboration with Artists-in-Residence.
- Facilitate communication and relationships with and among the musicians and their families to ensure a positive environment. In collaboration with the BYO Board President, resolve disciplinary issues as needed.
- Collaborate with the Orchestra Manager to run the orchestra, including maintaining a strong working relationship focused on bettering the experience for BYO's musicians and families.
- Plan and lead rehearsals at the annual Retreat (September).

In keeping with BYO Guidelines and Policies, while working on behalf of BYO, the Music Director and Conductor will act at all times in a professional, respectful, and appropriate manner.

Berkely Youth Orchestra is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

REQUIREMENTS:

The ideal candidate will have a minimum of 5 years of experience conducting youth musicians (with an emphasis on ages 12-18) and 2-3 years experience as a Music Director or in a related position. Preferably, the candidate will have a master's degree (or higher) in music. Candidates will have the ability to work collaboratively and effectively

with students, staff, faculty, and the Board of Directors, inspire students throughout the organization, and demonstrate strong leadership and decision making skills.

Candidates must be committed to building a collaborative, inclusive, and nurturing culture within the orchestra, the BYO family, and the communities that we serve. These values are best summarized at <https://www.byoweb.org/diversity-equity-inclusion>.

START DATE and WEEKLY HOURS:

Starting date between July 15th and August 1st. Approximately 15 hours weekly will be expected for this part-time position.

COMPENSATION:

Total compensation will be commensurate with the candidate's skill and experience, to be discussed during the interview process. The compensation range is \$32,000 to \$40,000 per year paid twice monthly.

APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS:

For full consideration, qualified and interested candidates should submit to the following materials to jobs@byoweb.org:

- Letter of Interest describing your qualifications and experience for this position
- Curriculum Vitae with conducting positions and any administrative positions held
- List of Repertory conducted for this age group
- 2 video samples (1 rehearsal and 1 performance) of conducting youth orchestras, high school orchestras, or community/volunteer orchestras

Thank you for your interest in this position and learn more about us at www.byoweb.org.

The deadline to apply is June 30th (or until the position is filled).