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**MUSIC DIRECTOR**

**MODESTO SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA ASSOCIATION**

The Modesto Symphony Orchestra Association (MSOA) welcomes applications for the position of Music Director. Finalists will audition/conduct during the 2020-21 Season with the position starting in the 2021-22 Season.

**The Modesto Symphony Orchestra Association**

The Modesto Symphony Orchestra is in its 88th season, having been founded in 1931. We are a pay-for-service orchestra which serves a broad area of California’s Central Valley with a population base of over 564,000 upon which to draw. The annual budget is $2 million. Musicians come primarily from the Central Valley, the San Francisco Bay Area and southern California. In 88 years there have been only eight Music Directors.

In addition to the Symphony, there are two youth orchestras serving different age groups. The youth orchestras are under the direction of our Associate Conductor, Ryan Murray. We also have both adult and youth choirs. The adult choir is in its 18th year and the youth choir was started last season. The adult choir is under the direction of Dr. Daniel R. Afonso Jr., Director of Vocal and Choral Studies at California State University Stanislaus. The youth choir is under the direction of Dr. Yejee Choi, Director of Choral Studies at the Conservatory of Music at the University of the Pacific.

Our standard season consists of a five concert classics series with two performances each, a three concert pops series and two “community concerts”. The classic and pops concerts are performed in the award winning Gallo Center for the Performing Arts which has received accolades for its acoustics. One of the community concerts, the Holiday Candlelight Concert, is performed at a magnificent Catholic church. The other community concert, Picnic at the Pops, is an outdoor concert on the grounds of the E. & J. Gallo Winery. It routinely draws 3,000-4,000 revelers.

**Where Are We Going, What is Needed in a Music Director**

The MSOA strives to be a highly regarded regional orchestra which attracts the best artistic talent, and which through artistic excellence and targeted programming can increase its share of Modesto’s highly competitive entertainment market.

The MSOA would like an orchestra that explores the vast symphonic repertoire, but does so in a way that makes marketing of that repertoire successful. This challenge is not unique to Modesto. We want to bridge the divide that at times exists between the stage and seats, engage the audience and make them think we are speaking to each one of them directly. That’s key to bringing the artistic and business sides of the operation together, creating a successful business model that will ensure the future of the symphony.

**Position and Requirements**

The ideal candidate will be an outstanding musician with the skills and experience necessary to conduct a professional orchestra.  They will have experience and enthusiasm with a broad repertoire to program concerts and will embrace and carry out a comprehensive artistic vision for the MSOA. They will have the ability to inspire players to reach the highest level of musicianship, possess an acute ear, a practical understanding of all orchestral instruments and effective rehearsal technique. They will have a passion for enriching lives through music including a commitment to community engagement and music education and the ability to communicate this passion. They will have the ability to collaborate with staff and Board to achieve the goals and objectives of the MSOA.

**The Process and Timetable**

Applications must be received no later than Wednesday, October 31, 2018. To apply please visit [www.modestosymphony.org](http://www.modestosymphony.org) and post a cover letter, resume with at least three professional references, and a video example of your conducting. No phone calls please.

It is anticipated that semi-finalists for the position will be invited for an interview in Modesto during March 2019. Finalists will be invited back to Modesto as guest conductors during the 2020-21 classics series, which runs from October 2020 through May 2021. Compensation will be competitive and guided by experience and qualifications.

The Modesto Symphony Orchestra Association is an equal opportunity employer.