

# the Auburn Symphony

Auburn, CA

[www.auburnsymphony.com](http://www.auburnsymphony.com)

The Auburn Symphony Orchestra (ASO) seeks a dynamic and experienced Music Director/Conductor to build on our 32-year record as a premier community orchestra and take us to a new level. Nestled in the foothills of the Sierra Nevada mountain range about 30 miles from Sacramento, and 80 miles from Lake Tahoe, the Auburn Symphony draws musicians and lovers of live symphonic music from throughout the Sacramento region. The ASO Board of Directors and Search Committee invites qualified candidates to apply by March 31, 2020. The position will begin with the **2021-2022** concert season.

## **ABOUT THE AUBURN SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA**

The Auburn Symphony Orchestra was founded in 1988 to bring classical music to Northern California's beautiful Sierra Foothills. We have become an important amenity to the quality of life in the region and have grown to an organization with a \$300K annual budget. Our community orchestra comprises approximately 70 dedicated musicians from a diverse population who volunteer their time and often travel long distances for rehearsals and performances. Their passion for sharing incredible music experiences knits them together to build a strong "orchestra family." As a testament, only three conductors have led the ASO to date, including outgoing Music Director/Conductor Peter Jaffe who has held the position since 2012.

Each season spans nearly nine months of the year and features a variety of programs. We engage in 10 full orchestral concerts a season—three community concerts (Symphony in the Park, Messiah Sing-along, and Family Concert), three Masterworks concerts offered for two performances each in our primary concert hall at the historic Placer High School Auditorium, and one finale Masterworks concert performed on the prestigious stage at the Mondavi Center for the Performing Arts in nearby Davis, CA.

A significant charge of our mission to "enrich and engage our community, across all generations, through the gift of music" is our youth programming. We partner with local elementary schools in a unique "Symphony Goes to Schools" program that takes a mini orchestra directly into the schools, educating and delighting over 100,000 students over the past 21 years. Our Young Artists Competition and Recitals have awarded monetary prizes and "bragging rights" to talented young artists aged 8 to 18 for more than 15 years. Grant funds support our "Symphony Goes to Pre-School" ensemble, an interactive program that visits local libraries and preschools.

## **POSITION SUMMARY & DUTIES**

The ideal candidate for Music Director/Conductor will bring talents, skills and sensitivities to the core areas of artistic vision, community involvement, connection, and promotional and educational outreach. S/he will lead the cultural and musical advancement of the organization, provide artistic leadership and create exciting concerts and educational experiences. S/he will demonstrate an ability to lead and inspire by developing a strong rapport of mutual respect with musicians, building a close connection with audiences and working cooperatively with the staff and Board of Directors to achieve the ASO's goals.

**Specific duties and responsibilities include:**

- Create an artistic vision
- Serve as the Music Director-- scheduling, supervising and conducting all rehearsals/concerts for one outdoor season premiere concert (Symphony in the Park), three Masterworks series (double concerts), one Messiah/Holiday concert, one Family Concert, the Young Artists Competition & Recital and the season finale Masterworks concert at the Mondavi Center
- Develop and fulfill the orchestra's artistic potential, visibility and image in the community
- Plan the concert season including repertoire and guest artists, in consultation with staff and Board
- Facilitate auditions with musicians desiring to become members of the orchestra
- Coordinate and counsel the Board on all proposed special events, providing artistic advice and guidance
- As available, attend ASO Board of Directors meetings and additional planning functions, participate in fundraising activities, donor appreciation and donor prospect events, and participate in media and promotional events, as requested
- Allow use of name and photographs in all advertising copy, printed materials, programs and other ASO materials; work with staff on all audio and visual performances to be used for traditional and social media marketing efforts

**QUALIFICATIONS**

- Music degree (BA or BM); advanced music degree preferred
- Minimum 3-5 years conducting experience required; preferably with both professional, as well as, amateur musicians
- Comprehensive knowledge of orchestral repertoire and styles with a proven record of inspirational and engaging programming
- Demonstrated ability to work collaboratively with musicians, staff, Board and community members, to produce positive outcomes for the organization
- Strong communication skills: ability to inspire and communicate musically and verbally with audiences and community members of all ages, both on and off the stage
- Ability to attend weekly rehearsals, dress rehearsals and concerts throughout the season

**COMPENSATION** Substantial part-time position in the \$25,000 to \$35,000 range, commensurate with experience

## APPLICATION

Applications must be **complete and received electronically** at [ASOmusicdirectorsearch2020@gmail.com](mailto:ASOmusicdirectorsearch2020@gmail.com) **by March 31, 2020** in order to be considered. No phone inquiries, please.

Applications must include (in PDF format):

- A personal letter of intent
- An artistic resume
- Examples of programs from the past two (2) seasons of concerts in which you served as music director/conductor
- At least three (3) links to videos showing you conducting rehearsals and/or performances of varying repertoire (preferably via YouTube, Vimeo or other online platform)
- A repertoire list
- Three professional references (provide names and contact information); include at least one (1) musician and one (1) administrative staff/Board reference

**Finalists ONLY** will be contracted to:

- Program, rehearse and conduct one (1) Masterworks Series Concert at the Placer High School Auditorium during the 2020-2021 season. (NOTE: this Masterworks concert will be a classical set **OR** a Halloween classical/pops set)
- Submit proposed programming for both a classical concert and a Halloween-themed classical/pops concert prior to final concert assignment
- Secure a soloist to perform with the orchestra at their assigned Masterworks Series Concert

Finalists can expect to be notified by May 15, 2020.

The new Music Director/Conductor will be notified by Spring 2021.

## ABOUT AUBURN

Since the mid-1850's, Auburn has gone from a small Gold Rush town to a quaint outpost for antiques to a vibrant city of around 14,000, bubbling with outdoor enthusiasts and entrepreneurs interested in "making things happen" here. As new generations move in, the antiques shops of old mix with modern boutiques and award-winning breweries, wineries and restaurants in two charming historic districts. In addition to being the most accessible Gold Rush town in California and claiming the title of "Endurance Capital of the World" (home to several world-class endurance events) Auburn offers a Wine Trail, beautiful and scenic hiking, running & biking trails and river rafting in the nearby American River Canyon.

The Auburn Symphony Orchestra has been loved and supported by residents and businesses alike for many years and has become a true gem, enhancing this inviting community. While most of our concertgoers and supporters live in the greater Auburn area with a population of 50,000, we often draw from the Sacramento region because of the area's charm and our reputation for the quality of the music. One longtime donor and local journalist recently wrote in her column, *"Every time I go to the symphony, I have reason to dab my eyes with admiration and joy."*