

Music Director Search

Music Director for Community Women's Orchestra (CWO)

Rehearsal day/time:

Thursday evenings, 7:15 to 9:30 pm

Lake Merritt United Methodist Church

1330 Lakeshore Ave

Oakland, CA 94606

Concerts:

3 concerts per year, held on Sunday afternoons: Family Concert (November), International Women's Day Concert (March), and Spring Concert (May). Each season includes a symphonic or other challenging piece, and at least one work by a woman composer on each program. CWO also holds an annual fundraising soiree in June, during which chamber groups from the orchestra perform.

Profile:

CWO is an all-volunteer, female-identifying group of musicians bringing quality classical music to the East Bay. Our mission is to create a welcoming environment to engage, inspire, and celebrate women in classical music. We are looking for a talented leader who is interested in building on CWO's unique, welcoming space while creating exciting classical music performances. Join us and be part of enriching the cultural life of our community.

JOB SUMMARY

The Music Director (MD) will conduct three concerts per year, held on Sunday afternoons, and will direct rehearsals once weekly, held on Thursday evenings, during the months of August-May. The MD will also assist with the music selection and coaching for the soiree.

The role will require selecting repertoire and conducting rehearsals and performances. As needed, the MD will be expected to conduct sectionals, help advise group instruction in String, Wind, Brass, and Percussion performance, and hire supplementary professional performers.

The successful candidate will bring an appreciation of and sensitivity to the community-based nature of the organization, and will be able to strike a balance between delivering quality classical music performances and maintaining a welcoming environment. The position will require working directly with a volunteer Board of Directors, generating a monthly musical status report, and attending monthly board meetings as available.

Salary range is \$13,000-16,000, commensurate with experience and skills, for a 30% time position (approximately 12-15 hours per week). The MD contract is renewable annually based on a vote of the orchestra membership. Requires attendance at weekly Thursday evening rehearsals, three concerts per year held on Sunday afternoons, and annual fundraising soiree.

RESPONSIBILITIES

- Design innovative, balanced programming that appeals to both orchestra and audience*
- Research repertoire by women composers for inclusion in programming*

- *Conduct all rehearsals and concerts*
- *Select and hire soloists and guest ringers*
- *Speak at concerts and write program notes to educate the audience*
- *Supervise set-up at concerts*
- *Assist with chamber music performance at annual fundraising soiree*
- *Manage Assistant Conductor program: recruit candidates, select appropriate repertoire and provide feedback, supervise and mentor the Assistant Conductor*
- *Work with the Board of Directors on strategic planning and initiatives*
- *Attend monthly board meetings as available*

QUALIFICATIONS

- *Bachelor's Degree or advanced degree in Music*
- *Minimum of three years experience as a conductor in an academic or professional environment*
- *Demonstrated experience conducting strings, winds, brass, and percussion*
- *Demonstrated leadership, interpersonal, and communication skills*
- *Ability to engage with orchestra and board members with sensitivity and diplomacy*
- *Ability and eagerness to work with musicians of varying abilities in a non-conservatory environment*

DESIRED QUALITIES

- *Demonstrated experience developing, organizing, and supervising all aspects of an orchestral program*
- *Ability to fundraise and generate gifts in support of the orchestra program*
- *Experience instructing strings, wind, brass, and/or percussion performance*
- *Experience mentoring and instructing conductors in training*
- *Familiarity with orchestra literature by women composers*
- *Familiarity or experience working with volunteer, community-based music groups*

APPLICATION

Go to [CWO Conductor Search](#) to apply or follow the process below

A complete application will consist of:

- [Online form](#) to submit answers to five question prompts
- Email submission of the following to baton@communitywomensorchestra.org
 1. Cover letter
 2. Resume
 3. 5-10 minute video sample of your conducting (optional)

Timeline

- *Candidate interviews: April-May 2020*

- *Audition start date: August 2020*

- *The audition will consist of a 10-12 week rehearsal period and concert performance. Auditioning candidates will be expected to choose repertoire for a ~2 hour concert, conduct all rehearsals, attend board meetings as available, and speak at and conduct the concert performance.*

- *Position start date: August 2021*