



February 25, 2021

## Save the Date for ACSO's 2021 Annual Conference Online: August 2-13



We are excited to announce that ACSO's [2021 Annual Conference](#) will again be a two-week extended virtual event from August 2 and 13!

After the success and record attendance of our virtual conference last year, you told us that you valued the ease, flexibility, and accessibility of a digital convening. We want to provide that experience again while we continue to prioritize the health and safety of our members. Through the magic of technology, we can bring the information, training, resources, and networking that are the hallmarks of an ACSO conference right to the comfort of your own home or office.

The theme of our 2021 conference is “**Coming Together, Breaking Through**,” and the keynotes, sessions, and networking opportunities will center around:

- Reimagining and building relevance and impact for our communities

- Planning for recovery and safe reopening
- Driving toward more equity and inclusion in our sector
- Re-examining and creatively shifting organizational cultures and practices
- Advocating for the important and essential nature of the arts

We are also planning some fun ways to highlight and celebrate your proudest achievements and successes during the pandemic, so start thinking of the stories you want to brag about.

Mark your calendars and stay tuned for more information about the exciting conference elements we are planning for you, and for the announcement of registration launch in June.

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## 2020 Conference Session Recordings Available

The recordings of the 2020 Annual Conference Sessions are available on the ACSO website. The 13 sessions, containing almost 20 hours of education on topics such as fundraising, board engagement, career resiliency, and orchestras and race, can be found in the **On-Demand Webinars** section in the [Members-Only Resource Center](#) when you log in with your member credentials. If you need log-in assistance, email [office@acso.org](mailto:office@acso.org).

Access to these recordings are a benefit of membership for individual members and the staff and board of organizational members. If you or your orchestra would like this content and other benefits, [join ACSO today.](#)

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## Guest Blog Post by Amber Joy Weber: Student Ensemble Music Videos Encourage Hospital Staff

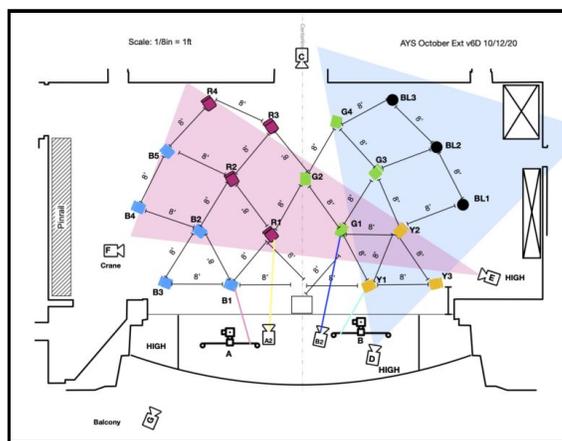


In the latest installment in our [Guest Blog Series](#), San Diego Youth Symphony Deputy Director **Amber Joy Weber** shares her orchestra's experience creating encouraging videos that were shared with front-line workers at Scripps Mercy Hospital Chula Vista. The hospital, where

Amber's husband, Mark (*pictured here with a nurse*), serves as a chaplain, broadcast recordings of the students playing on its TV channel, bringing much needed joy to the hardworking doctors, nurses and staff. Conductor **Anthony Kim** said that he and the students "all agreed that our performance through the hospital TV screens may be the most important performance we have had thus far..." [Read the full blog post here.](#)

Would you like to be a guest blogger for ACSO or do you have some ideas for topics or people you'd like to hear from? Let us know at [office@acso.org](mailto:office@acso.org).

## American Youth Symphony Shares Tips for Producing a Virtual Concert



The team at **American Youth Symphony (AYS)** shared the behind-the-scenes process of producing their virtual 2020 Fall Concert. They put together a [comprehensive blog article](#) containing video and written interviews with Music Director Carlos Izcaray, Executive Director Tara Aesquivel, Director of

Orchestra Operations Isabel Thiroux, and a range of AYS musicians and staff; photos of setup and staging; and images of stage plots and schematics such as the one picture here. [Click here for the complete article and video.](#)

By sharing their challenges and successes, AYS hopes to assist and inspire fellow orchestras and ensembles in a time where "producing virtual and digital content continues to be the new normal for orchestras". Thanks to AYS for embodying the meaning of "rising tides lift all boats" and sharing what they have learned with our field!

## March Calendar of Online Learning Programs

### WEBINARS

[Register for all Webinars Here](#)

Thursday, March 11, 12-1pm PT

**ACSO Members: Ask Capacity Interactive Anything**

Wednesday, March 17, 3:00-4:15 pm PT

## **Get to Know CA Arts Advocates: Your Direct Arts Lobbyist**

### **VIRTUAL PEER FORUMS**

[Register for all Virtual Peer Forums Here](#)

Thursday, March 4: **Community Orchestra Leaders & Board Members**

Tuesday, March 9: **EDs of Professional Orchestras with Budgets Under \$1 million**

Tuesday, March 16: **Music Festival Managers and Leaders**

Thursday, March 18: **Youth Orchestra Staff and Leaders**

Friday, March 19: **Board Members of Professional Orchestras**

Tuesday, March 23: **Box Office & Patron Services Staff**

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## **California Announces \$50 Million in Cultural Relief Funding**

Governor Gavin Newsom, Senate President pro Tempore Toni G. Atkins, and Assembly Speaker Anthony Rendon announced on February 17 that they have reached an agreement on a package of immediate actions that will speed needed relief to individuals, families and businesses suffering the most significant economic hardship from the COVID-19 Recession. Included in the relief package is \$50 million allocated in funding for cultural institutions, including music organizations. [Read the full announcement here.](#)

We thank our partners at **California Arts Advocates and California Association of Museums** for organizing the statewide lobbying effort to make this win happen!

Specifics on the grant program are available in [Senate Bill 87](#), which would authorize this new program. Some details include: the definition of "cultural institution" which includes musical groups, clarification that there is no cap on eligibility based on budget size, and that grant amounts will be \$5,000-\$25,000 (based on the organization's gross annual revenue). More information on the grants program will be available soon.

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## **Orchestras with Fewer Than 20 Employees: Special PPP Application Window Has Opened for You**

The White House and Small Business Administration (SBA) [announced on Monday](#) that starting yesterday, February 24, a 14-day period will begin during which Paycheck Protection Program applications will only be accepted from applicants with fewer than 20 employees and sole proprietors. The SBA is also rolling out a new funding formula meant to better support sole proprietors, independent contractors, and self-employed individuals. According to the SBA announcement, "This will give lenders and community partners more time to work with the smallest businesses to submit their applications, while also ensuring that larger PPP-eligible businesses will still have plenty of time to apply for and receive support before the program expires on March 31, 2021."

If you think your orchestra may be eligible for a [First Draw PPP loan](#) or a [Second Draw Loan](#) – and you have fewer than 20 employees – NOW is the best time to contact a lender ([find eligible lenders](#)) and find out how much relief may be available to you.

As of February 21, the SBA has issued loans totaling \$140 billion, nearly half of the total \$284 billion available for PPP loans in 2021.

### **SHUTTERED VENUE OPERATORS GRANT (aka SAVE OUR STAGES)**

If you received a PPP loan in 2020, you can apply for the new federal Shuttered Venue Operators Grant Program (SVOG), if you are eligible, but you cannot receive both a Second Draw PPP loan and a Shuttered Venue Operators grant. The SVOG program is not yet accepting applications and the SBA is still working to clarify ambiguous guidelines. The SBA is frequently updating its [FAQs](#) about this program, so check back often for the latest information.

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## **Jobs from the ACSO Career Center**

[Associate Director, Development Communications](#) (posted 2/17/21)

**SAN FRANCISCO SYMPHONY**

[Marketing & Communications Manager](#) (posted 2/11/21)

**WICHITA SYMPHONY**

[Assistant Manager Annual Fund](#) (posted 2/11/21)

**LOS ANGELES PHILHARMONIC**

[Patron and Marketing Associate](#) (posted 2/11/21)

**SANTA BARBARA SYMPHONY**

[Click here to view more career opportunities or to post a job in the ACSO Career Center.](#)

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