



May 4, 2020

ACSO 2020 Annual Conference is Going Virtual!

We are pleased to announce that the ACSO [Annual Conference](#) – ***Building Relationships, Building Resilience*** – will take place this year as an extended virtual event from **August 3-14, 2020**. In order to support the breadth of our community during this challenging time, ACSO will offer all content on a “pay what you can” basis to members and non-members alike. Content and registration details will be available later this month.



For fifty years, the greatest strength of the ACSO conference has been the connections you make while you are there. Whether it is through an impactful session, a peer forum, or an informal conversation in the hallway, no one walks away without having expanded their network of professional support.

This year, we are playing to those strengths online.

- We are creating even more opportunities for peer-to-peer networking.
- We are providing one-on-one advice with our Ask an Expert consultations.
- We are offering both creative ideas and practical tools through sessions designed to address the unique needs of orchestras and ensembles in our region.

- We are seeking to inspire with a keynote address by [Dr. Laree Kiely](#), Chief Wisdom Officer of WeWill and longtime advisor to the Los Angeles Philharmonic, on organizational resilience and deepening our ability to improvise.

As a community, ACSO is at its strongest and most resilient when we lean on one another for counsel and camaraderie. Please join us as we work together to find the strength and solutions we need to continue doing what we do best – bring extraordinary music to life.

This virtual conference replaces ACSO's in-person conference scheduled for August 12-14, 2020 at the Mission Inn in Riverside and hosted by the San Bernardino Symphony. We look forward to returning to the Inland Empire in August 2021 when we can come together in-person once again.

More Virtual Peer Forums Starting This Week

In response to the pandemic, ACSO organized over 20 video connection calls and peer-to-peer virtual networking programs for our members in the months of March and April. Almost 300 of you joined us to share best practices, help one another navigate uncertainty, and exchange information. You told us that these programs helped you get ideas from other orchestras, feel comforted knowing that others share your struggles, and come away uplifted.

We heard your feedback and we have organized another round of Virtual Peer Forums in May. Space is limited so registration is required. Free for members and non-members. [Register here.](#)

THURSDAY, MAY 7 AT 11 AM PT - ORCHESTRA OPERATIONS STAFF

Facilitated by Connor Bogenreif, Manager of Operations & Education, Long Beach Symphony

THURSDAY, MAY 7 AT 3 PM PT - DEVELOPMENT & FUNDRAISING STAFF

Facilitated by Scott Vandrick, Chief Development Officer, Pasadena Symphony and POPS

THURSDAY, MAY 14 AT 11 AM PT - EDUCATION/COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT STAFF

Facilitated by Loribeth Gregory-Beck, Director of Education & Community

Engagement, Arts & Lectures, UCSB

THURSDAY, MAY 14 AT 3 PM PT - BOX OFFICE & PATRON SERVICES STAFF

Facilitated by Kayla-Jo Rosoff, Patron Services Manager, Las Vegas Philharmonic

WEDNESDAY, MAY 20 AT 11 AM PT - MARKETING & COMMUNICATIONS STAFF

Facilitated by Cristine Kelly, Principal & Founder, Fix Creative

WEDNESDAY, MAY 20 AT 3 PM PT - YOUTH ORCHESTRA MANAGERS & STAFF

Facilitated by Tara Aesquivel, Executive Director, American Youth Symphony

THURSDAY, MAY 21 AT 11 AM PT - BOARD MEMBERS & TRUSTEES

Facilitated by Kathryn Martin, Leadership Transition Strategist/Executive Coach, Kathryn R. Martin Consulting

THURSDAY, MAY 21 AT 3 PM PT - FINANCE & HR STAFF

Facilitator TBD

THURSDAY, MAY 28 AT 11 AM PT - MANAGERS OF PROFESSIONAL ORCHESTRAS/ENSEMBLES WITH BUDGETS UNDER \$1 MILLION

Facilitated by Sarah Weber, Executive Director, ACSO

THURSDAY, MAY 28 AT 3 PM PT - MANAGERS OF COMMUNITY ORCHESTRAS/ENSEMBLES

Facilitated by Sarah Weber, Executive Director, ACSO

[Register for all Virtual Peer Forums here.](#)

Final Reminder to Register for May 6 Webinar: Composer Diversity in Practice and Programming

Today is your last chance to register for ACSO's next **Ask an Expert Webinar on Wednesday, May 6 at 11 AM PT** with Rob Deemer, Founder & Director, [Composer Diversity Project](#) and Professor and Head of Composition in the School of Music at the State University of New York at Fredonia.



While it is not yet certain when orchestras can resume performances, it is a good time to be thinking about what future concert programming might look like when we can once again open our halls and welcome audiences.

This webinar will introduce and explore an amazing tool that can help you diversify and innovate your programming.

Launched in 2018, the [Composer Diversity Database](#) was created as the only existing tool that allows you to search for works by underrepresented composers. The project is now housed at the State University of New York at Fredonia as a full Institute, and the team has launched additional tools and research such as analysis of orchestral 2019-2020 seasons across the country in order to track diversity progress in the field.

Institute Founder and Director Rob Deemer will outline the tools, models, and best practices with which to explore new repertoire and engage in discussion with participants about how and why performers, presenters, educators, researchers, and orchestras of all sizes can and should increase their programming of composers from underrepresented groups. [Click here to learn more and register.](#)