

JOB OPENING: INTERIM CONDUCTOR/MUSIC DIRECTOR, THALIA SYMPHONY 2010 – 2011

Thalia Symphony is a non-profit Community Orchestra, a member of the Thalia Allied Artists umbrella organization. Thalia has been 'Orchestra in Residence' at Seattle Pacific University and this position will end this June. The 2010 – 2011 season will be one of re-definition as we find a new rehearsal hall, negotiate performance space, replace SPU's in-kind marketing support, and replace about 25 SPU student players.

The Interim Conductor/Music Director will lead rehearsals and concerts over the September 2010 to June 2011 season, dates to be finalized with the selected candidate. The Interim Conductor/Music Director will be called upon for pre-season planning and preparation.

APPLICATION PROCESS

- **Completed application materials are due March 31, 2010.**
- Send materials to ConductorSearch@thaliasymphony.org.
- The Conductor Search Committee will begin interviews as soon as suitable candidates emerge (i.e. interviews may begin prior to the March 31 application closing date).
- During the interim conductor's term, Thalia will be carrying on a separate search for a permanent conductor. The interim conductor will be welcome to enter that process and apply for the permanent position.
- Additional information about Thalia Symphony is available at www.thaliasymphony.org in the About section. Hear a sampler of past performances, see a list of programs Thalia has played over the last 20 years, and see a more extensive history of the group.

RESPONSIBILITIES

- Design 2010-2011 programming, with input from the players' Repertoire Advisory Committee.
- Audition new players.
- Serve as conductor for four concert programs during our September 2010 to June 2011 season.
- Lead rehearsals, typically eight rehearsals per program (currently held Thursday evenings 7:30 pm to 10:00 pm).
- Serve on the Thalia Symphony board—give feedback on the orchestra, report concerns, give input on operations and planning.
- Prepare season-end report of group's artistic progress for Thalia Allied Artists annual meeting in June 2011.
- Provide leadership in the growth, development and advancement of Thalia Symphony.
 - Willingness to recruit players is a plus.
 - Willingness to raise money for Thalia is a plus.
- Foster a nurturing, constructive, emotionally healthy working environment.

COMPENSATION

- \$75 per rehearsal or concert service.

DESIRED QUALIFICATIONS:

All candidates will be assessed through application materials, interviews, and auditions on their demonstrated qualifications in the following areas:

General qualifications

- Ability to communicate well with individuals and with groups
- Respectful attitude toward musicians, staff, and board members
- Ability to work collaboratively with board members
- Flexibility in working with musicians of varying levels and in addressing the challenges that arise within an amateur non-profit musical organization
- Ability to make and carry out decisions, both individually and collectively, that support the mission of the organization
- Ability to gain respect and confidence of the full Thalia organization, audience, and the broader community it serves
- Ability to think creatively and to introduce new perspectives
- Organizational skills, reliability and consistency as befits a leader
- Broad musical interests
- Ability to provide long-term vision for the growth and development of a community orchestra

Conducting qualifications

- Ability to communicate musical intentions through clear conducting technique as well as verbal and non-verbal means
- Positive, affirming demeanor
- Expertise in interpreting music of all major periods of musical history

- Skill in developing excellent orchestral performance: varied and stylistically appropriate tone quality; balance within and between sections; rhythmic precision; expressive interpretation; historically informed interpretation; etc.
- Skill in using terminology and calling for playing techniques specific to each section of the orchestra
- Ability to manage time in rehearsal, ensuring the orchestra is fully prepared
- Willingness to receive input from the Repertoire Committee on programming the orchestra concerts

APPLICATION PACKET

There are five mandatory components and some optional elements.

1. CURRICULUM VITAE

Submit Curriculum Vitae, in whatever format you wish, that includes all the following elements:

- Education, training, and other formative learning experiences related to the qualifications
- Significant experience as a musician (conducting; instrumental and/or vocal performance; composing; etc.)
- Other significant experiences that have made you qualified for this position
- Other work experience that would contribute to the organizational, managerial, and administrative skills that make you qualified for this position
- If applicable: awards, honors, and other recognition that you have received
- If applicable: publications, recordings, established methodology, or other distinguishing accomplishments
- As part of the CV or in a separate document, provide a list of representative musical works that you have conducted in public performance.

2. STATEMENT OF INTEREST

Thalia Symphony faces significant challenges over the next few years, as noted above. In addition to securing a new Conductor/Music Director, it will be ending its association with Seattle Pacific University. Without the students from SPU the orchestra will need to recruit many new players to fill specific openings. It will also need to contract new performance and rehearsal spaces. The Board of Directors is committed to retaining the current non-student members and will work to develop a stronger financial base and increase its audience size as well as its outreach to its community.

Interested applicants are asked to submit a letter of intent stating qualifications for and interest in becoming the Interim Thalia Symphony Conductor/Music Director at this time in its history, addressing our current concerns.

3. REHEARSAL DEMONSTRATION

Submit a video recording of yourself leading at least one hour of an orchestral rehearsal OR arrange for selection committee representative(s) to observe you in a live orchestral rehearsal this spring. If you need to do a recording and lack access to a video camera, you may contact us for assistance.

4. REFERENCES

Provide name and contact information (telephone number or email address only) of up to three people who can directly address your qualifications for this position.

5. INFORMATION ON CURRENT CONDUCTING POSITION(S), IF APPLICABLE

What conducting positions, volunteer or paid, do you currently hold?

May we contact players or others who are officially related to the organization you conduct?

May representatives of the selection committee observe you in rehearsal in the organization(s) you conduct?

Is there an upcoming performance that we might come to see?

OPTIONAL ELEMENTS OF APPLICATION PACKET

- One or more letters of recommendation from references *who can directly address your ability to lead an orchestra*
- Audio or video recordings of you conducting *in performance*
- Other materials which directly address your qualifications for this position

Please email application materials to **ConductorSearch@thaliasymphony.org**. It is preferred that audio/video recordings be attached to email. Should it be necessary to send discs or other materials separately, they may be mailed to Conductor Search c/o Shelley Reiss, 304 NW 97th St, Seattle WA 98117. If sending materials by mail separately, be sure to note this in your application email.

Thank you for your interest in Thalia Symphony.

Sincerely,

Shelley Reiss
Thalia Symphony Conductor Search Committee Chair