



**SPOKANE SYMPHONY  
POSITION DESCRIPTION  
OCTOBER 2017**

## **MUSIC DIRECTOR AND CONDUCTOR**

### **General Summary:**

The Spokane Symphony seeks applications from highly qualified candidates to become the 9<sup>th</sup> Music Director in the Symphony's history.

Reporting to the Board of Trustees through the Board President, the Music Director serves as the principal artistic and musical driving force within the Spokane Symphony. The Music Director shall serve as chief architect, communicator and implementer of those activities within the institution which relate to the function of the orchestra. The successful candidate will have the drive and ability to substantially raise the bar of the orchestra's performance quality, and will serve as a highly effective face of the organization, along with its executive director.

The 2018-2019 season shall serve as the "search year" when candidates come to Spokane to conduct and engage with Symphony constituents. The 2019-2020 season will be the first season for the new Music Director. The 2020-2021 season will be the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary season of the Symphony.

### **Specific Roles and Responsibilities:**

#### Artistic Planning, Programming, and Guest Artist Selection

- Oversees all programming for concerts involving the orchestra or its constituents
- Pursues excellence resourcefully and imaginatively, with unrelenting passion
- As a programmer, creates winning balances of extremes such as personal and institutional taste, new and familiar works, preferences of musicians and listeners, popular and serious repertoire, idealism and pragmatism, easy and difficult
- Improves his/her musical understanding through inquiry and scholarship
- Has the long-range vision to help create and implement the Symphony's strategic plan, in concert with all aspects of the organization
- Successfully blends cosmopolitan experience with local culture
- Attracts and retains musicians and soloists who effectively weave together world renown with regional resonance
- In "pops" repertoire, is knowledgeable, enthusiastic and willing

#### Conducting

- As an interpreter of music on the podium, has the ability to inspire, challenge, and improve musicians collectively and individually
- As a technical leader, communicates clearly, both visually and verbally
- Manages rehearsal time well
- Sets clear expectations to musicians regarding rehearsal timing and involvement
- Engages and excites the audience with masterful and inspiring performances

- Skillful as a concerto accompanist and vocal director
- Works collaboratively and respectfully with performers, while maintaining high standards of artistic quality
- Effectively leads and works alongside additional conducting staff and chorale director

#### Communications

- As a focus of public relations, sets a very high standard of integrity, reliability, and congeniality
- Works collaboratively and respectfully with trustees, volunteers, and staff

#### External Relations

- Seeks distinction and recognition not just for her/himself and the Symphony, but also for the community
- Demonstrates personal interest and experience in all the arts
- As a public spokesman, embodies and advocates the highest standards of accomplishment for all endeavors
- Seeks to maximize opportunity for both the Symphony and the community through collaborative relationships
- Demonstrates vision and sensitivity of the place of the Symphony and the arts in the larger community. Embraces the mission to expand the music education and opportunity of children, youth, and adults
- Communicates a personal passion for music
- Communicates clearly and patiently

#### Administration

- Interacts effectively with staff, board, volunteers and other internal constituents
- Engages with staff and board to understand and advance institutional vision

#### Development

- Embraces importance of active participation in the cultivation, nurturing and growth of external constituents and relationships
- Works collaboratively with executive director, development staff and board members to reach fundraising goals established by the institution

**Application Process and Timeline:**

The Music Director Search Committee will thoroughly review materials from all candidates. Qualified applicants shall submit the following materials to [mdsearch@spokanesymphony.org](mailto:mdsearch@spokanesymphony.org). Please submit in PDF form **ONLY**, the following:

- Letter of interest;
- Curriculum Vitae;
- Links to Audio & Video Recordings (indicate website address for download or streaming); prefer non-edited, from the standard repertoire, within the last 24 months;
- Sample programs from past 24 months of actual orchestra or other concerts in which you served as principal conductor, music director or artistic advisor in determining programming (please indicate role if not otherwise specified);
- Complete repertoire list including orchestral, opera, ballet, and chamber repertoire;
- List of 3-5 Professional References

The search will be conducted in four rounds. For the initial round, we will review materials and determine a group we wish to receive additional materials from; materials from the second round of candidates will then be reviewed; for the third round, we will contact those with whom we wish to conduct phone and/or Skype interviews. Once phone interviews are completed with semi-finalists, we will schedule finalists to conduct one week during the 2018-2019 season.

**Deadline:**

To be considered, please submit your electronic materials no later than December 20, 2017.

**About the Spokane Symphony:**

Founded in 1945, the Spokane Symphony is currently in its 72<sup>nd</sup> consecutive year of operation. The Symphony provides the region with world class artistry through the presentation of live symphonic music and other musical events which educate and entertain the broadest possible audiences. The Symphony performs in the beautifully renovated Martin Woldson Theater at The Fox, an exciting regional performing arts center that blends 1930s ambiance with 21<sup>st</sup> century technology and acoustics.

The 70-piece professional orchestra performs for more than 150,000 listeners each season and provides a wide variety of exceptional educational experiences. The orchestra presents critically acclaimed performances featuring some of the world's most respected soloists.

Over the course of a standard season, the Symphony performs approximately 160 services through the following sets of concerts at the meticulously-restored Fox Theater in downtown Spokane:

- 10 pairs of Classics (normally with 5 rehearsals)
- 6 Pops (normally 1-2 rehearsals)
- New Year's Eve Beethoven's 9<sup>th</sup> Symphony
- 2-3 sets of Specials (Harry Potter, Star Wars, Cinema, pop culture programming)
- Collaborative activities with other arts organizations in and around Spokane
- 4<sup>th</sup> Grade Concerts for combined audiences of over 9,000 a year (some at Fox, some in Idaho)

The following concerts are held off-site:

- Annual Performance at Sandpoint Music Festival, Idaho
- 2 individual concerts at Arbor Crest Winery, Spokane
- Labor Day Park Concerts (2 concerts held Saturday and Monday of LD Weekend)
- 3 pairs of Chamber Concerts (Historic Davenport Hotel )

**About the Fox Theater:**

After much anticipation, the Martin Woldson Theater at The Fox opened its doors in November 2007 and is currently celebrating its tenth anniversary of the restoration. Originally Spokane's Fox Theater built in 1931, this art deco treasure is owned and operated by the Spokane Symphony and serves as the Symphony's permanent home and as an incredible venue for all of the performing arts. The Theater is listed on the National Register of Historic Places, the Spokane Register, and the Washington Heritage Register.

**About Spokane:**

A bustling metropolitan area of approximately 700,000, Spokane is the hub of the area known as the Inland Northwest.

Named as one of the Best Places to Live in America by Outside Magazine, Spokane, Washington is Eastern Washington's largest city and is located 300 miles east of Seattle and 30 miles from the Idaho border. The region offers outstanding benefits for both individuals and businesses looking to move to a new area, including recreational opportunities, low-cost living, affordable housing, an abundance of educational offerings and a diversified industry base.

More information can be found here:

- [Greater Spokane, Inc.](#)
- [Visit Spokane](#)
- [Spokesman-Review \(Daily Newspaper\)](#)
- [The Inlander \(Weekly Arts/Culture Paper\)](#)
- [Spokane-Coeur d'Alene Living Magazine](#)