

Contra Costa Chamber Orchestra

Music Director/Conductor Position Overview

Overview of the orchestra

The Contra Costa Chamber Orchestra (CCCO) is a volunteer community ensemble, which was founded in 1977. CCCO has a long tradition of quality music making, and the orchestra's artistic standards have grown consistently over the past eleven years, under the current Music Director/Conductor. New members are either auditioned or invited to join. Repertoire includes works for chamber orchestra and full symphonic orchestra, as well as works of smaller instrumental forces (string orchestra, chamber winds ensembles, mixed ensembles, etc.). Programs include works in a variety of genres, including both "classical" and "popular" music, based on a theme.

CCCO presents five concert sets per season. The season runs from the end of August (first rehearsal), to mid-May (last performance). The orchestra performs two formal concerts per set, on Saturday and Sunday afternoons. The venue for our Saturday afternoon concerts is the historic El Campanil Theatre in Antioch. The venue for our Sunday afternoon concerts rotates between the Leshner Center for the Arts in Walnut Creek (where CCCO is a charter performing ensemble), and a facility at the Rossmoor Retirement Community in Walnut Creek. Occasionally, a third concert is added to a set – either a shared concert on a rehearsal night, mid-rehearsal sequence (most often with our rehearsal host's orchestra), or a Friday evening concert preceding the Saturday-Sunday afternoon concerts (usually the May concert set) at Alhambra High School in Martinez (with a side-by-side component with the AHS String Orchestra).

Concert programs typically contain between 60-75 minutes of music, and often feature a guest soloist. The orchestra prepares the programs over the course of five or six 2.5-hour rehearsals, plus pre-concert sound-check/touch-up rehearsals in the concert venues (which vary in length from 20-90 minutes). The orchestra rehearses on Wednesday evenings, from 7:30-10:00pm, at College Park High School (CPHS) in Pleasant Hill. CPHS Percussion instruments are used for the concert performances.

CCCO pays the Music Director/Conductor an annual salary (in 10 monthly installments – September through June).

Currently, the Contra Costa Chamber Orchestra has a formal relationship with Saint Mary's College of California, which uses CCCO as the orchestral ensemble for their qualified string students. The CCCO Music Director/Conductor is appointed to a position as Lecturer in the SMC Performing Arts Department, and receives a small stipend as the professor of record for the class (which currently carries a .33 weighted teaching load).

Duties of the Music Director Conductor

- Work with the Board in setting the annual budget.
- Work with the Board and the representatives of the various concert venues to set the annual concert/rehearsal calendar, and sign the formal contracts.
- Work with the rehearsal site-host and school district on the formal process to obtain a Civic Permit to reserve the rehearsal room for rehearsal dates for the season.
- Work with the Board and/or programming committee to select repertoire for the season.
- Work with the Board and/or programming committee to identify and secure soloists.
- Work with the Board and others on promotional and marketing materials for the season, and each of the individual concert sets, and in the process for creating concert programs.
- Work with the Librarian to secure music for each concert set, working within the annual budget for the purchase and/or rental of music.
- Serve as Personnel Manager for the orchestra.
- Organize, plan and conduct weekly rehearsals in preparation for each concert set.
- Communicate directly with soloists on all aspects of the preparation of repertoire and performance logistics.
- Work with various concert venue liaisons, on concert logistics.
- Work with rehearsal host (CPHS) on logistics related to borrowing percussion equipment for concert performances.
- Work with CCCO percussionists on logistics of transportation of percussion equipment from CPHS to concert venues, and return of the equipment.
- Conduct formal Saturday and Sunday concerts, as well as any additional concerts.

Applicant Qualifications, materials submission

Minimum requirements

- Bachelor of Music Degree
- 3 years orchestral conducting experience
 - Experience conducting adults/community orchestra a plus
- Experience working with a board of directors

Materials Submission

- A formal letter of application
- Résumé/CV of education and experience as a musician/conductor, including names and contact information for 3-5 references
- A list of orchestral repertoire conducted in performance and/or rehearsal
- DVD showing orchestral conducting (or links to videos)
 - 30-40 minutes in length
 - Showing 2-3 pieces of varying styles
 - Excerpts should include both rehearsal and performance modes
- Three proposals for concerts, created with a theme
(see synopsis of programs from 2007-2018 for examples of themes and repertoire):
 - 1) All “classical” music
 - 2) Concert combining “classical” music, and “popular” music
 - 3) Concert of all “popular” music
- Three current letters of recommendation (references provided with Résumé/CV may also provide letters of recommendation)

Application Deadlines

January 16, 2018: Submission Deadline

January 22-26, 2018: Interviews with semi-finalists

January 31, 2018: Finalists conduct the orchestra during rehearsal
Each finalist will be assigned a rehearsal block between
7:30 and 10:00

Repertoire: Beethoven: Symphony No. 1, Mvts. II and IV
Bernstein: Candide Overture

The CCCO Board will make its decision in mid-February and notify finalists.
Results will be announced February 17-18, 2018, during the “Ludwig and Leonard” concert performances.