

# **Willmar Area Symphonic Orchestra**

## **Artistic Director | Principal Conductor**

The Willmar Area Symphonic Orchestra welcomes applications for artistic director | principal conductor for its 2024-2025 season. Qualified candidates will be able to conduct symphony performances, rehearse the orchestra, and provide leadership for the orchestra's musical programs and outreach.

Founded in 1957, Willmar Area Symphonic Orchestra performs a broad repertoire of symphonic music. The mission of the orchestra is to provide opportunities for local musicians to perform orchestral music, to help develop an awareness and appreciation for orchestral music in our communities, and to mentor young musicians in our communities and provide them with performance opportunities.

The Willmar Area Symphonic Orchestra serves the west central Minnesota region. The symphony draws volunteer musicians from Willmar and 12 surrounding communities.

Interested candidates are invited to submit a letter of interest, a current resumé including education, program history, video recordings of two performances, salary expectations, and a sample program for one concert designed for the Willmar Area Symphonic Orchestra.

***Applications for the conductor position must be received no later than May 15, 2024, by email at [willmarorchestra@gmail.com](mailto:willmarorchestra@gmail.com).***

Additional information can be requested by contacting Kit Grode at [willmarorchestra@gmail.com](mailto:willmarorchestra@gmail.com), or visiting the orchestra website at [www.willmarorchestra.com](http://www.willmarorchestra.com).

**Willmar Area Symphonic Orchestra**  
**Job Description**  
**Artistic Director | Principal Conductor**

The Artistic Director | Principal Conductor is responsible for the artistic operation of the orchestra. The person who holds this position exercises authority in artistic matters according to the guidelines established by the Board of Directors and mutually agreed upon at the time of engagement. The Artistic Director | Principal Conductor will work in close consultation with the members of the Board within the limits set by the budget, and in accordance with the terms of the working agreements with musicians and guest artists.

**Qualifications**

- Significant musical talent including an acute ear for orchestral intonation, balance, and color and skills in sight-reading and transposition.
- Proven ability to provide a performance experience of the highest caliber through application of effective baton and rehearsal technique.
- Podium presence that enhances the quality of the orchestra's performance.
- Strong interpersonal skills which foster a climate of respectful and effective communication within the organization.
- Skills necessary to communicate effectively both in writing and public speaking.
- Proven ability for developing imaginative programming ideas that have significance to the orchestra, the community, and the occasion.
- Awareness of the current field of solo artists, contemporary music, and performance practices.
- Basic knowledge of a nonprofit organization, with an understanding and appreciation of the roles of the board, the musicians, and the support volunteers. The conductor is a non-voting member of the board of directors.
- Ability to work with an orchestra membership that includes musicians of varying backgrounds and abilities.
- Bachelor's degree or higher in music, music education, or music-related field.
- Previous experience performing the majority of the duties outlined above preferred.

**Responsibilities**

- Conduct concerts as agreed upon by contract and supervise the work of any assistant and/or guest conductors.
- Work with the organization, including the members of the Board in developing and planning the orchestral artistic season.
- Have music available to musicians prior to the first rehearsal, as feasible.
- Responsible for selecting guest artists and guest conductors, recruiting permanent and supplemental musicians, and determining the number of rehearsals and kind of rehearsals along with the board.

- Collaborate with community arts organizations and initiatives as needed.
- Supervise the audition and selection process for the Young Artist Competition.
- Commit to fulfilling the orchestra's potential as an artistic and community resource and a willingness to participate in the promotional endeavors of the orchestra.
- Assist in the general promotion of the orchestra by being available for public appearances and fundraising activities.
- Demonstrate a concern for the effect the conductor has on the professional lives and performance quality of the musicians.
- Perform other similar and related duties, as directed by the Board, not requiring materially different qualifications from those described in this document.

### **Salary**

- The conductor will be paid on a per-event basis.