JOB DESCRIPTION: Conductor of Symphonette

The Three Rivers Young Peoples Orchestras is currently accepting applications for the position of Symphonette Conductor effective starting with the 2020-21 Season.

Part Time: 5 Hours/week on average (Sep-May)

Hours: Saturdays 10:00 AM - 12:30 PM (Sep-May) for rehearsals; some administrative work during the week; evenings/weekends as needed for extra rehearsals, auditions, performances, other events.

Reports to: Music Director

Compensation: An annual fee based on a rate of between $125-$150/service

DESIRED QUALIFICATIONS AND SKILLS

On the podium, the successful candidate will:

• have a passion for developing young people both as individuals and ensemble members;
• ensure through his/her rehearsal process that the students are given a safe environment to express themselves through their art and to have fun;
• demonstrate experience and enthusiasm conducting youth groups, selecting appropriate repertoire and designing appropriate concert programming for youth ensembles;
• possess skills as a string instructor and have an ability to demonstrate and/or articulate their instructions to young string students;
• demonstrate a clear understanding and passion for the best pedagogical practices for individual and ensemble excellence.

Off the podium, the successful candidate will:

• be approachable, engaging, collaborative, and attentive to the needs of students and colleagues;
• have the ability to galvanize and inspire students, colleagues, and supporters while promoting the organization;
• demonstrate an openness to ideas, opportunities, and collaborations;
• display strong interpersonal skills;
• have clear, effective writing skills;
• possess strong public speaking skills;
• be responsive to staff, board and student inquiries in a timely and thoughtful manner;
• possess effective time/deadline management skills;
• possess effective project management and delegation skills.

Education and Clearances:

• Bachelor’s Degree and Master’s degree is preferred; or equivalent pedagogical training and applicable professional experience.
• Act 33, Act 44, and FBI background checks are required

DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Conducting, Auditions, and Performance

• Serve as the conductor of the Symphonette at rehearsals and concerts (currently mostly Saturday morning rehearsals at Duquesne University, and two-four concerts per season). Maintain an inspiring, effective, and efficient rehearsal technique in weekly rehearsals.

• Participate in new member entrance auditions and seating auditions, including selecting or approving audition requirements, sitting in auditions, selecting students/assigning seating, and providing feedback (usually three audition cycles per season).
• Lead a season-start retreat (possible overnight) and participate in and help plan other possible immersion experiences for the ensemble.

• Work within the artistic leadership team to create innovative programming and performance practices that not only cultivate each participant, but also have significance to the orchestra and the community. Continue to expand TRYPO’s commitment to programming and commissioning new music.

Administrative Leadership

• Foster a strong, positive culture of collegiality among Symphonette students, families, and staff.

• Cultivate a relationship with the parents of Symphonette members and keep the lines of communication open with them in conjunction with the artistic leadership of the organization.

• Advocate for TRYPO’s mission.

• Play a primary role in communicating with potential students about openings and auditions for Symphonette membership, and continually work on the growth and development of your ensemble.

• Maintain active, collaborative relationships with private studio teachers, school music educators, and organizations such as the Pennsylvania Music Educators Association and Pennsylvania Music Teachers Association, in the cause of strengthening music education in our region.

PHYSICAL REQUIREMENTS

This position requires extensive time sitting or standing while conducting rehearsals.

TO APPLY

Please submit the following requested materials by Monday, March 2, 2020:

• Cover letter detailing interest in working for TRYPO, how your experience and skill set aligns with our vision for this position, as well as your vision for creating more access points for Pittsburgh’s young musicians.

• Resume/CV

• If available, please also send a video of a recent performance or rehearsal (acceptable formats include link to YouTube video or other online video, link to google drive containing video file, zip drive containing video file, or DVD)

A limited number of applicants will be invited to audition with the orchestra, as well as interview with the search committee. Auditions are currently scheduled to take place on Saturday, April 18, 2020 between 10:00 AM-12:30 PM. Interview will be scheduled separately. Audition procedure and repertoire will be further outlined for candidates selected to audition. Audition repertoire will likely be selected from Symphonette’s upcoming Spring 2020 concert. TRYPO would like to announce the successful candidate in May 2020.

Submitting via mail: Lindsey Nova, Executive Director Three Rivers Young Peoples Orchestras 212 Ninth Street, Suite 601 Pittsburgh, PA 15222

Submitting via email: Lindsey Nova, Executive Director Subject Line: Symphonette Conductor Search Lindsey@trypo.org

Three Rivers Young Peoples Orchestras is an equal opportunity employer. All applicants will be considered for employment without attention to race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, national origin, veteran or disability status.
TRYPO’S MISSION STATEMENT

Three Rivers Young Peoples Orchestras provide well-rounded music education programs and performance opportunities for young people to foster lifelong passion, appreciation, and support of music.

A BRIEF HISTORY OF THE ORGANIZATION

In 1974, Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra harpist Phyllis Barbash founded the Three Rivers Training Orchestra for students ages 13-18. In 1985, the organization expanded to include Symphonette, a string orchestra serving students ages 8-14, which was created in response to inquiries for an even younger orchestra. With that addition, we became Three Rivers Young Peoples Orchestras. In the 2015-16 season, in collaboration with the Pittsburgh Youth Symphony Orchestra, TRYPO launched its third ensemble program, the Youth Chamber Connection (YC2), which provides small ensemble opportunities for students ages 7-22. In the 2018-19 season with new artistic leadership, TRYPO launched three additional program opportunities: A Wind Symphony, a Percussion Ensemble, and an Apprentice Conductor Program.

ABOUT SYMPHONETTE

Symphonette is a unique and treasured ensemble in the Pittsburgh region. Symphonette serves as an exclusive string orchestra aimed at superb performance practices and rehearsal experiences while maintaining a high standard of excellence. Symphonette is an ensemble of violins, violas, celli, and basses with between 45-55 students annually. It meets on Saturday mornings at Duquesne University from 10:00 AM - 12:30 PM. In the 2019-20 season, students are between 10-16 years old and come from 28 different schools. Symphonette is a tuition-based program with significant availability of need-based scholarship for families who demonstrate need. Students have a season starting retreat. Students have a Play and Coach (Symphonette coaches play in rehearsal side by side with kids and then break out into sectionals) once a month. Coaching staff are comprised of many of our working professional musicians/educators in the Pittsburgh Symphony, Opera and Ballet. Symphonette performs at least twice a year. Students have seating auditions bi-annually and entrance auditions every May/June.

Recent repertoire:

- Arensky’s Variations on a Theme by Tchaikovsky
- Vivaldi’s Bassoon Concerto in Bb Major (featuring Pittsburgh Symphony bassoonist Jim Rodgers)
- Bach’s “Air on the G String” from Orchestral Suite No. 3
- Bernofsky’s Heart of Fire
- Handel’s Water Music
- Anderson’s Plink, Plank, Plunk!

For more information about Symphonette, see www.trypo.org/symphonette

For more information about TRYPO in general, see www.trypo.org