



# ROPA Delegate Handbook

2020 Edition



A conference of the American Federation of Musicians, AFL-CIO

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## **PREFACE**

This manual is to be kept and maintained by the elected Delegate of each orchestra. It should be used as a reference tool for your orchestra and as a reminder of your duties as a liaison between ROPA and your orchestra.

When there is a change of Delegate, the document should be passed on to the new representative.

## **REGIONAL ORCHESTRA PLAYERS ASSOCIATION (ROPA)**

ROPA is a players' conference of symphonic musicians within the American Federation of Musicians. It provides support services and training to over seven thousand musicians in 90 American orchestras. ROPA is a sister organization to the International Conference of Symphony and Opera Musicians (ICSOM), the Organization of Canadian Symphonic Musicians (OCSM), the Theater Musicians' Association (TMA), and the Recording Musicians' Association (RMA). Each summer, the ROPA annual Conference is attended by Delegates from the member orchestras, the ROPA Executive Board, representatives from the AFM Symphonic Services Division, the AFM International Executive Board, Officers of the other players' conferences, and other invited guests. The Conference is our opportunity to come together and discuss matters of mutual interest, hear informative speakers, attend workshops, and conduct business that affects ROPA as a whole. In addition to the Conference, ROPA provides its member orchestras with a wide variety of services year-round to help with the many problems that confront regional orchestras. Listed within this handbook are the services ROPA provides.

## **WHY IS BEING A MEMBER OF ROPA IMPORTANT?**

ROPA is a way to seek advice and find solutions by communicating with other orchestra musicians. Through ROPA you can learn how to effectively organize your committees, orchestra, and negotiating team so that you can successfully deal with management and internal problems.

Being a member of ROPA sends a message to your management that you are unified and organized. To quote Lew Waldeck, former Director of the AFM Symphonic Services Division (SSD), "UNITY IS POWER".

As a member, you are provided valuable tools such as surveys, bulletins, newsletters, an Emergency Relief Fund, and an annual Conference.

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**WHAT ROPA HAS TO OFFER**

### **Internal Communication via Members-At-Large and ROPA Website**

ROPA Members-At-Large will communicate with their assigned throughout the year. The connection between the Member-at-Large and his or her assigned delegates is a vital networking tool that allows the ROPA Board to assist orchestras in need of help. It is also essential to keep the ROPA board and other delegates informed about industry trends. Lines of communication are always open to all ROPA officers. The ROPA website ([www.ropaweb.org](http://www.ropaweb.org)) is where Delegates can find information they need, including contact information and important documents.

### **Roster**

A current listing of all Delegates and Local Union contact information can be found on the ROPA website ([www.ropaweb.org](http://www.ropaweb.org)). The roster is located on a password-protected page on the website; contact the ROPA Secretary for the password to this page (which will be different from your website login).

### **ROPA Settlement Bulletins**

The latest ROPA orchestra information that announces strikes, lockouts, settlements and any other activity of note that is sent to ROPA Delegates. ROPA bulletins are available on the ROPA web site, under the “News” drop down menu. (See below)

### **The Leading Tone**

ROPA’s newsletter is published four times a year to report on important events and to offer articles of interest. All members are encouraged to submit articles for the newsletter. (See below)

### **Players Conference Council**

This is a committee consisting of representatives from ROPA, ICSOM, OCSM, RMA, and TMA. This committee has further broadened our lines of communication, as all organizations share bulletins, newsletters, and other pertinent information. PCC members are in constant communication and meet annually to ensure total communication between all of the performing musicians' organizations.

### **Conductor Evaluation Bank**

Full member orchestras have access to musicians' evaluations of Music Directors, Assistant Conductors, and Guest Conductors. The conductor evaluation bank is a useful tool in the process of selecting a conductor. ROPA is a participant in the ICSOM bank as well. (See below)

### **Negotiations and General Assistance**

In addition to your Local and the AFM Symphonic Services Division (SSD), any member orchestra may get assistance by calling other Delegates or ROPA officers. The networking and dialogue that occurs within ROPA is an important part of gathering information, problem solving

## **ROPA Delegate Handbook 2020**

and preparing for negotiations. The annual ROPA Conference provides negotiation workshops for the Delegates, presented by the SSD staff and guest speakers.

### **Electronic Media Committee**

This committee informs and represents member orchestras in the areas of recording, broadcasting, and other forms of electronic media. The committee holds meetings with the other Player Conferences and the Federation to discuss ongoing electronic media issues. Members of this committee sit at the bargaining table for national negotiations over the Integrated Media Agreement (“IMA”).

### **Regional Orchestra Emergency Relief Fund**

Every Full Member ROPA Orchestra must join the Regional Orchestra Emergency Relief Fund. [Associate Member Orchestras are not eligible.] The ROPA ERF is a fund which offers financial assistance to ROPA Full Member Orchestras that are suffering through a strike, lockout, or job action. The money is available in the form of interest-free loans to AFM members only. (See below)

### **ROPA Legal Advisory Service**

This service is offered at no cost on a limited basis to ROPA Full Member Orchestra Delegates seeking advice from ROPA Counsel. (See below)

## ROPA DELEGATE DUTIES

### Be Familiar with the Delegate Handbook and the ROPA Bylaws

#### Attend the ROPA Conference:

- Meet with your Orchestra Committee prior to the conference to find out what issues are important to your orchestra.
- Write an Orchestra Report about your orchestra to distribute at the conference.

#### Contact Information:

- Maintain current contact information including your e-mail address with the ROPA Secretary and your Member-at-Large.
- Notify the ROPA Secretary of contact information of a new Delegate, Alternate Delegate, and Local President, if there are any changes.
- Maintain a current e-list of your orchestra and forward important ROPA orchestra information to your musicians, including electronic editions of the *Leading Tone*.

#### Maintain contact with your assigned elected ROPA Board Member-at-Large (MAL).

- Notify MAL of important issues such as grievances, contract re-openers, and financial difficulties, or questions or concerns.
- Report detailed information about your orchestra to your MAL. You will receive a list of questions from your MAL several times per season that will assist the ROPA Board in maintaining the current status of your orchestra. Please make every effort to respond to these questions in a timely manner.

#### Supply the following information to the ROPA Executive Board:

- Settlement Bulletin to the ROPA Secretary (See below).
- Conductor Evaluation Reports to the Conductor Evaluation Bank Administrator.
- Electronic copy of your Master Agreement to the ROPA Secretary.
- Submit essays and articles of interest for the Leading Tone to the Leading Tone Editor.
- Prepare an orchestra report for the conference and submit to ROPA Secretary. (See below) This report will be discussed during the conference MAL breakout groups. In special cases you may be asked to give an oral report to the ROPA Delegates during the annual conference.
- Submit ROPA dues to ROPA Treasurer by **December 31**. Collect ROPA dues, Emergency Relief Fund dues, and special assessments or contributions, or verify that proper payroll deduction has been made and sent to ROPA. (See below)

**Supply the following to your orchestra musicians:**

- The Leading Tone newsletter.
- ROPA Settlement Bulletins.
- A written and oral report on the annual ROPA Conference to your orchestra and to your Local Officers.
- Important information that includes legislative activities by the AFM or United States Government that could impact their work.

**Supply the following to the AFM Symphonic Services Division (SSD):**

- Compile and enter the Wage and Scale Chart Data. (See below)

**Network with other ROPA orchestras:**

- Maintain a subscription to the ROPA e-list (<http://groups.google.com/group/ropa-discussion>) and the ROPA Delegate e-list (<http://groups.google.com/group/ropa-delegates-discussion> (See below))
- Register and receive a password for the ROPA website ([ropaweb.org](http://ropaweb.org)).
- Answer and post inquiries on the Delegate e-list.
- Post articles and industry information on the ROPA e-list.
- With the support of your orchestra, submit letters of support to orchestras in difficult circumstances and collect and forward funds for orchestras in need.

**HOW TO SUBMIT ARTICLES FOR *THE LEADING TONE***

The Leading Tone Editor will set deadlines for each issue. Ideas for article topics include good news stories about your orchestra or your community, feature stories about your musicians, information about musician health and welfare, etc. E-mail your article to the Leading Tone Editor in plain text or as a Microsoft Word attachment by the announced deadline. Avoid using unnecessary formatting, and recognize that there may be minor changes to your article during the editing process.

Whenever you have a choice, go with clarity and precision. For tips on writing your article, refer to *The Elements of Style* by William Strunk Jr. and E. B. White, and *The Associated Press Guide to News Writing* by Rene J. Cappon.

## ROPA SETTLEMENT BULLETINS

A ROPA bulletin is an announcement to ROPA and ICSOM Delegates of a ratified agreement, any job action including a strike and any other activity of note. E-mail the completed bulletin to the ROPA Secretary.

ROPA Delegates are expected to submit a settlement Bulletin when a contract has been ratified, or when there is any other job action, including a strike or any other activity of note. There are two tools to help with submitting the information 1) link to a Google Form where information can be submitted, or 2) download and fill out the Settlement Bulletin Template, then send to the ROPA Secretary. Completed Bulletins will be proofread and placed on the website in the News Section.

ROPA Bulletins should contain the following information:

- Orchestra Name
- Delegate Name
- Ratification Date; Expiration Date
- Term of Agreement: include number of years; dates
- List if the contract is Per-service or Salary
- Wage details for each year of the contract and the last year of the previous contract
- Number of guaranteed services
- Number of weeks in season
- Include four to five of the most substantial changes in the contract such as tenure, pension, benefit changes, working conditions, or media guarantees
- Names of Negotiating Committee, names of participating Local Officers and Local President, Legal Counsel, SSD Negotiator, and others instrumental in the negotiation.

Delegates can use this google form to create their settlement bulletins:

<http://tinyurl.com/Settlement-Bulletin-Form>

Or, there is a Word template available at <https://tinyurl.com/Settlement-Bulletin-Template>

**See Sample Bulletin on the next page**

**ROPA Delegate Handbook 2020**  
 Knoxville Symphony  
 Settlement Bulletin  
 Steve Benne, Delegate

<b>Ratified:</b>	<b>Term:</b>	<b>Begins:</b>	<b>Expires:</b>	<b>Pay Type</b>
3/13/2018	2 Years	9/1/2017	8/31/2019	Core/PS

	previous year 2016 – 2017	Year 1 2017-2018	Year 2 2018-2019
Section Per-service	\$87.73	\$89.48	\$91.27
Asst. Prin. Per-service	\$102.31	\$104.36	\$106.45
Principal Per-service	\$120.58	\$122.99	\$125.45
% increase		2%	2%
# of services by level	*see below	*see below	*see below

\*Service Guarantees: specific to instrument type and position. For example: Per-Service strings are guaranteed 79 Services. Assistant Principal winds (also Principal and Assistant Principal Trumpet) are guaranteed 104.

**Highlights:**

- Keeping the woodwind quintet in the professional core, securing their status for at least two more years
- 2% raise
- Limiting travel for small ensembles to 1250 miles (previously there had been no mileage limit and some players had logged over 2000 miles annually)
- Lowered annual service maximum from 280 to 250 services
- Denying management's demand that per-service players play at least 50% of their service guarantee in order to keep their jobs.

**Special Thanks to:**

Negotiating committee: Jeffery Whaley (chair), Sean Donovan, Rachel Loeske, Sande MacMorran, Sarah Ringer

SSD Negotiator: Todd Jelen

Local Officers: Bill Pierce (President), Steve Benne (VP), Jeffery Whaley (Secretary), Sean Donovan, Rachel Loeske, Stacy Nickel, Ed Niedens

## ROPA GENERAL DISCUSSION LIST

### Policy Statement

The ROPA General Discussion List is intended to serve as an electronic forum for issues pertaining to the orchestra industry. Participating members use the mailing list to share information regarding the orchestra industry, and to post information of interest to ROPA orchestra members. This list is similar to ICSOM's Orchestra-L, which is also open to all members of ROPA orchestras.

The ROPA General Discussion List is open to all members of a ROPA orchestra, both full and associate. Persons affiliated with a ROPA orchestra, such as a Local officer, and interested persons affiliated with one of the other Player Conferences (ICSOM, OCSM, RMA, and TMA) will also be granted access to this list, as will AFM staff members. Additionally, the ROPA Executive Board may grant access to other individuals who are interested in furthering the goals of ROPA.

The ROPA Executive Board retains the right to deny access to any person who abuses the privilege of accessing the ROPA General Discussion List. Abuse shall be considered using the mailing list for a purpose other than that stated above. In particular, posting inflammatory language or using the mailing list for commercial purposes shall be considered abuse. Common courtesy and professional behavior are expected from all authorized users.

The mailing list administrator shall notify an individual when the ROPA Executive Board determines that the individual is abusing the mailing list. If the individual does not alter his/her behavior immediately upon receiving a warning the administrator will remove the individual from the list of authorized users.

The ROPA Executive Board reserves the right to amend or change this policy statement without prior notice.

### Administrative Information

- List address: <http://groups.google.com/group/ropa-discussion>
- To send email to all subscribers, address your message to:  
[ropadiscussion@googlegroups.com](mailto:ropadiscussion@googlegroups.com)
- To reach the administrator, email [ropasecretary@gmail.com](mailto:ropasecretary@gmail.com)

To subscribe, unsubscribe, or change your email address, send an email to the ROPA Secretary or go to the ROPA website ([www.ropaweb.org](http://www.ropaweb.org)) and click on the "Get in Touch" button and leave a message. Be sure to mention the name of your orchestra, or AFM staff/officer title. If we don't recognize your name or orchestra, we will not be able to add you to the mailing list. You may also go to the link <http://groups.google.com/group/ropa-discussion>, and click on "Contact the Owner" to leave a message

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Before you begin posting messages to the list, please review the generally accepted principles of Netiquette. There are many websites that discuss rules for internet etiquette; <http://www.albion.com/netiquette/corerules.html> is one such site. Even seasoned Internet travelers can sometimes use a refresher.

If you have any questions, send email to the ROPA Secretary.

## **ROPA DELEGATES DISCUSSION LIST**

Delegates use this mailing list to network exclusively with all the ROPA Delegates and the ROPA Board. This list is used to compare contract language and to conduct surveys about conditions or circumstances in other ROPA orchestras. This forum is closed to AFM staff and officers.

List address: <http://groups.google.com/group/ropa-delegates-discussion>

To send email to all Delegates, address your message to [ropa-delegates-discussion@googlegroups.com](mailto:ropa-delegates-discussion@googlegroups.com)

Administrative address: [-ropawebmaster@gmail.com](mailto:-ropawebmaster@gmail.com)

To subscribe, unsubscribe, or change your email address, send an email to the ROPA Secretary or go to the ROPA website ([www.ropaweb.org](http://www.ropaweb.org)) and click on the “Get in Touch” button and leave a message. Be sure to mention the name of your orchestra. If we don’t recognize your name or orchestra, we will not be able to add you to the mailing list. You may also go to the link <http://groups.google.com/group/ropa-delegates-discussion> and click on “Contact the Owner” to leave a message.

Before you begin posting messages to the list, please review the generally accepted principles of Netiquette. There are many websites that discuss rules for internet etiquette; <http://www.albion.com/netiquette/corerules.html> is one such site. Even seasoned Internet travelers can sometimes use a refresher.

If you have any questions, send email to the ROPA Secretary.

## **SOCIAL MEDIA**

### **Guidelines for using Social Media for ROPA members**

ROPA shall strive to use its own social media sites to promote the interests of regional orchestra musicians as set forth in ROPA’s guiding principles. In order to be most effective in this goal, ROPA reserves the right to remove inappropriate comments and posts on its social media sites.

You can find ROPA on facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/ropaweb/>.

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Further, ROPA encourages its member orchestras to actively use social media to promote the interests of its musicians. In accordance with ROPA's guiding principles, members should strive to use social media to accomplish goals similar to these:

- To promote the union and fair working conditions;
- To educate musicians and the public about industry standards and issues in labor law;
- To promote the interests of ROPA orchestra musicians;
- To empower and enable our colleagues to better their lives in their workplace; and
- To communicate during a time when labor is being dismantled in our country.

Members should keep in mind that social media is a public forum and post accordingly.

## **ROPA CONFERENCE**

Each summer the ROPA Board organizes a conference in a ROPA Orchestra city. Each conference is hosted by a ROPA orchestra and its Local. All ROPA orchestras must have representation at the conference.

### **Preparation for the Conference**

- Each Delegate should meet with his/her AFM Local Officers, inform them of the projected expenses of attending the conference, and request funding. The AFM bylaws provide that the AFM Local is responsible for covering a Delegate's conference expenses.
- Delegates must prepare a one-page report on their orchestra's demographics and highlights. This should be e-mailed to the ROPA Secretary by the designated deadline.

### **Orchestra Report Instructions**

Please include the following information in your report to the conference:

1. Orchestra
2. Delegate Name
3. Orchestra Demographics: Season Length, budget, number of musicians, number of guaranteed services, service rate, list of the concerts performed.
4. Description of the orchestra
5. Year in review: Include notable events: contract settlements highlights, grievances, awards, fundraising accomplishments, recordings.

**See Sample Report on the next page:**

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ILLINOIS PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA

REPORT TO THE ROPA CONFERENCE, AUGUST 2018

Lisa Bressler – Delegate, Philip Serna - Alternate

Type of season: Per Service – 5 Classics, 1 Holiday Pops, 1 Educational concert, 1 Classical Evolve Service

Budget: \$718,682

Number of Musicians and Guarantee: 75, 38 – 24 services, 30 – 12 services, 7 – 6 services

Per service rate: \$113.88 Principal, \$102.49 Assistant Principal, \$91.10 Section

DESCRIPTION: The Illinois Philharmonic Orchestra serves the southern suburbs of Chicago.

YEAR IN REVIEW:

The 2017-18 season saw the orchestra ensconced in our new venue, the Ozinga Chapel at Trinity Christian College in Palos Heights, IL.

This season was the first for our new Music Director Stilian Kirov. We also had one guest conductor, Stefan Veselka. The Holiday Concert was conducted by Francesco Milioto.

The IPO initiated a new project, Classical Evolve, which chooses a Composer-in-Residence for the upcoming season. From submitted works three finalists are chosen. Their pieces are rehearsed and performed in a service in which the public is invited. A panel of three judges, the audience, and the musicians of the orchestra then vote to choose the winning piece/composer. This year's winner an 2018-19 IPO Composer-in-Residence is Benjamin Ash.

No grievances were filed.

The current contract expires May 31, 2019.

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## **Conference Responsibilities**

- Delegates are responsible for making their own travel arrangements and hotel reservations at the conference hotel. Each year the conference hotel offers special hotel rates which are generally lower than market rate. Please pay attention to deadlines for reserving your room at the conference hotel in order to ensure the best rates.
- New Delegates must attend the new delegate orientation session.
- Each Delegate will participate in a small group “break-out” session and will be provided the opportunity to give a short report to the orchestras attending their session, which will be hosted by their assigned Member-at-Large (ROPA board representative).
- Delegates should take detailed notes of the conference to assist them in preparing an oral and written report of the conference to their orchestra and their Local Officers. A fifteen-minute oral report about the conference should be scheduled for both your orchestra and

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your local at a regularly scheduled meeting. These reports are crucial for maintaining the connection between ROPA, your orchestra, and your Local. Make sure to highlight what you have learned at the conference and in particular, the issues that impact your orchestra.

- **Conference App:** The ROPA board will strive to provide delegates with an app for their mobile devices which will assist them in tracking the conference sessions, getting updates about conference events, learning about presenters, and taking notes. Information about downloading the app and/or other ways delegates can use technology to aid in their conference experience will be sent shortly before the conference begins so that delegates will be able bring appropriate devices with them to the conference.
- Consider submitting a resolution at the annual conference.
- Consider hosting a conference.

### Hosting a ROPA Conference

Orchestras interested in hosting the next ROPA Conference will be given time for a short presentation at this Conference. We suggest you provide a hotel brochure(s) or websiteshowing the conference facilities with your presentation.

**Official Invitation and Commitment** - The official invitation to host the annual ROPA conference must come from the member orchestra's committee and the Local. The invitation should include a commitment from the orchestra committee to: have a substantial percentage of the orchestra attend at least one session of the conference, assist in putting on a public labor event if local circumstances make that desirable, and have a corps of volunteers to help before, during, and after the conference. The invitation should also include a commitment from the Local to assist with the items listed below under “Local Requirements”:

**Basics** - The hotel should be a union hotel if possible. The location of the hotel should be central or near sites of interest to attendees. Ground transport from airport to hotel should be convenient and reasonably priced.

**Guest rooms** - The hotel should have an adequate number of rooms, reasonably priced (preferably between \$100 and \$150 before any local taxes), to accommodate all attendees. About 100 people customarily attend on official business, and family members and others usually brings the total to 120.

#### **Hotel Needs:**

**Conference Room** - The conference room should seat 100 people comfortably; this usually requires at least 2000 square feet. Sightlines should be unobstructed; watch out for columns and irregular walls. The conference room should be exclusively for ROPA’s use during the conference and available for general sessions, large caucuses, and workshops.

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**Audio-Visual Needs** - Participants should be able to hear each other when they speak; that usually requires a sound system, either in-house or rented, with microphones easily accessed.

**Executive Board Meeting Room** - The Executive Board requires a room that can seat up to 16 people comfortably for meetings. The room may be needed for other meetings during the conference.

**Office** - A room near the conference room is needed for office supplies and paper distribution. Office equipment appliances (computer, printer, copier) require suitable outlets.

**Hospitality Suite** - A large comfortable room where delegates can meet informally is customary. The room should have a refrigerator. ROPA should be allowed to stock the room with drinks and snacks, but the hotel may require that its own food and beverage service be used.

### **Local Requirements:**

**Copier**- Provision must be made to expedite copy work by renting or borrowing a copy machine for the Conference Office, to be used by the Executive Board.

**Social Event**- There is usually a social event, hosted by the Local, held in conjunction with the Conference. This is not a mandatory requirement but highly recommended. Interested locals may contact the ROPA secretary for more information on past events.

## ROPA DUES

Annual ROPA Dues for the each fiscal year (July 1 - June 30) for Full Member Orchestras is \$680.00 plus an additional \$100.00 for the annual contribution to the ROPA Emergency Relief Fund (ERF) for a grand total of \$780.00.

Annual ROPA Dues for the each fiscal year (July 1 - June 30) for Associate Member Orchestras is \$200. Associate Member Orchestras are not eligible to receive benefits from the ROPA Emergency Relief Fund.

This payment is due no later than **December 31** with the entire check made payable to ROPA.

Send your check to the ROPA Treasurer. See <http://ropaweb.org/about/executive-board-committees/about-the-ropa-treasurer/> for mailing address information.

Please note that if your Local is in charge of paying your annual ROPA dues, you (the ROPA Delegate) are responsible for seeing that these dues are properly remitted to ROPA. Late fees will be assessed to any orchestra whose Annual Dues (and ERF) is received after December 31. Late fees shall be calculated as follows:

<b>Dues Paid On or After</b>	<b>But Prior To</b>	<b>Late Fee Shall Be</b>
January 1	February 1	\$5.00
February 1	March 1	\$10.00
March 1	April 1	\$20.00
April 1	May 1	\$30.00
May 1	June 1	\$40.00
June 1	July 1	\$60.00
July 1	August 1	\$80.00

If the dues remain unpaid at the end of the Fiscal Year (June 30), the Orchestra shall be expelled from membership and can only be reinstated upon payment of a \$100.00 reinstatement fee, together with all back indebtedness. The Executive Board shall be empowered to grant an extension for payment and/or waive any penalties if, in its opinion, an extraordinary situation requires the same.

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**AFM SSD ROPA WAGE AND SCALE CHART**

The AFM ROPA Wage and Scale Chart is one of the most valuable comparative data tools used in regional orchestra negotiations. It is up to the delegates to:

1. Know the terms of their collective bargaining agreement (or know who you can ask), so you can verify the information and enter changes.
2. Obtain the answers to employer and local union questions each year. The questions are sent to you via e-mail
3. Register with SSD and enter the information supplied by management and the local union and from your contract in the online wage chart application.
4. Inform your orchestra members about how to access the online wage charts.

## **INFORMATION AND INSTRUCTIONS FOR ENTERING INFORMATION FROM SSD**

### **Highlights from the [wagechart.afm.org](http://wagechart.afm.org) for new delegates**

The wage charts site hosts an innovative, dynamic and interactive database that offers an extraordinary opportunity to analyze the status of each orchestra in the industry and is an important tool for negotiators.

- ***wagechart.afm.org*** is accessible by AFM members only.
- Users must access the site with an updated browser (the chart is supported by google chrome, mozilla firefox, internet explorer, and safari).
- Useful information on how the website works can be found in the ***Help*** section with ***Guidelines*** and ***Glossaries***, IM Articles and PowerPoints.
- Current and older charts are posted on [wagechart.afm.org](http://wagechart.afm.org) in the ***Wage Charts*** section.

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Delegates are responsible for entering data in the Wage Charts by accessing the questionnaire of their own orchestra in the ***Delegates*** section. You must be a ROPA delegate and pre-register with the SSD Contract Administrator Laurence Hofmann in order to gain access to this section.

In the fall, delegates will receive a list of questions to submit to the local and to management, respectively. In December, the questionnaire will be available online for your updates (until March).

Delegates may ask any questions of SSD wage chart coordinator Laurence Hoffman. It is important to stay in touch with her and to keep her informed on your progress if you run into any

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difficulties with entering the wage chart information. Any problem, big or small, is of great importance to improving the wage charts and should be shared with SSD.

→**PLEASE enter data ASAP**← You can access the questionnaire as often as you wish until the closing of the deadline.

Every spring the current season's charts are published in an edited PDF format.

In the few months prior to publication, delegates are requested to bring the charts up to date so that the published pdf is as accurate as possible.

Throughout the year, the delegates have the option to make changes to the online charts.

Therefore, the online charts are usually the most current.

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## The Comparative Analysis: A Tool for Negotiations

An especially useful feature of the site is the *Comparative Analysis*. This section has 2 subsections: Filter by Criteria and Historical Review.

**Filter by Criteria:** Orchestras can be compared with other orchestras using (one or multiple) criteria such as season length, musicians currently employed, orchestra budget, minimum annual salary, minimum weekly salary.

**Historical Review:** the growth of an orchestra can be reviewed going back to the 2009-2010 season.

The reports from the searches are presented as tables and graphs. They can be downloaded and/or printed.

For any further questions, please do not hesitate to contact the SSD Wage Chart coordinator:

Laurence Hofmann, SSD Contract Administrator

[lhofmann@afm.org](mailto:lhofmann@afm.org)

office (917) 229 0211

## ROPA LEGAL ADVISORY SERVICE

This service is offered at no cost but only on a limited basis to ROPA Full Member Orchestra Delegates seeking advice from ROPA Counsel regarding contract negotiation or grievance issues. It is only available where specifically authorized by the ROPA President. It is intended to provide brief answers or quick advice on limited legal questions. ROPA does not provide ongoing legal representation to Member Orchestras.

Any ongoing assistance by ROPA Counsel for grievance handling, negotiations, or litigation for any individual orchestra will require a separate agreement between the law firm and the involved Local, orchestra or the Orchestra Services Program.

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This limited service is being provided at reasonable cost to ROPA. To be fair to all our full member orchestras (and to keep our costs down), follow these guidelines when requesting legal services:

1. Determine if qualified legal advice can be obtained through your Local.
2. Call the SSD at 212-869-1330.
3. If your Local or the SSD cannot answer your question, a ROPA Full Member Orchestra\_Delegate may approach the ROPA President to receive authorization to make contact with the ROPA Counsel.
4. After the consultation, write a brief summary report to the President describing the problem and the advice received.

This procedure allows our orchestras to use the maximum services available to them. It is essential that requests come directly from a ROPA Full Member Orchestra Delegate to the ROPA President so that you can be identified as an official representative from your orchestra before being authorized to receive the service.

## **ROPA EMERGENCY RELIEF FUND**

Every ROPA member orchestra (except Associate members) must join the Regional Orchestra Emergency Relief Fund (ERF). Each orchestra must pay \$100 to the ROPA Treasurer by December 31 of each year.

Following are the AFM Bylaws pertaining to the Regional Orchestra Emergency Relief Fund.

The American Federation of Musicians Regional Orchestra Emergency Relief Fund shall be administered in accordance with the following terms and conditions:

- SECTION 5. The AFM's Regional Orchestra Emergency Relief Fund shall be administered in accordance with the following terms and conditions:
  - SECTION 5(a). Participation in the Fund shall be in accordance with ROPA Bylaws by ROPA orchestras operating under a CBA with budgets of \$800,000 or more. Orchestras not meeting the budgetary requirement cited above may participate in the Fund upon the Trustees' approval.
  - SECTION 5(b). Each participating orchestra shall be obligated to contribute \$100 annually to the Fund to cover the fiscal period from January 1 to December 31, the amount to be paid not later than April 1 of each fiscal period. The Trustees, in their discretion, may recommend to the participating orchestras that a lesser or greater contribution amount should be made to the Fund. The participating orchestras shall have the right to ratify a recommendation, in accordance with the Bylaws of ROPA, and the recommendation must be passed by majority vote of the qualifying orchestras. In addition, the AFM shall make available to the fund monies up to the amount of \$50,000 on a non-interest bearing loan basis, to be repaid at such times and at such amounts as the Trustees determine is consistent

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with the Fund's fiscal soundness.

- SECTION 5(c). Emergency relief loans of up to 20% of the funds available as of April 1 of the current year shall be available to participating orchestras that are current in their payments to the Fund. Loans shall be payable from the Fund only after a strike has been ordered or approved by: (1) the players of a participating orchestra acting by at least a majority vote or in accordance with some other established written policy requiring more than a majority vote, (2) the Local Executive Board, and (3) the International President's Office. Emergency relief loans shall be payable from the Fund in the event of a lockout or other serious confrontation with management that, in the Trustees' opinion, should be considered for emergency relief.

- SECTION 5(d). All monies in the Fund shall be held separate from all other AFM monies and, whenever possible, placed in limited access, high interest bearing financial instruments. The International Secretary-Treasurer shall cause the Fund to be audited on an annual basis for the fiscal period January 1 to December 31 immediately on the conclusion of each fiscal period and shall furnish a copy of that audit to each Trustee as soon as possible. In addition, the International Secretary-Treasurer shall advise each Trustee not later than April 15 of each year of the Fund balance and the participants eligible for emergency relief as of April 1 of that year.

- SECTION 5(e). Loans shall be repaid without interest in 12 equal monthly installments commencing on the first day of the month following resolution of the confrontation. At the end of the 12-month period, any outstanding unpaid balance will be charged interest calculated at the Wall Street Journal (WSJ) prime rate in effect on the first day following the 12-months period until said balance is paid in full. In the event of hardship, a feasible payment schedule shall be determined by the Trustees.

- SECTION 5(f). The Fund shall be maintained and administered by five Trustees, consisting of the International Secretary-Treasurer, the President of ROPA, the Treasurer of ROPA, and two additional Trustees named by the IEB. The Trustees shall have full power to establish and promulgate rules and regulations for the Fund administration consistent with this Section, shall collect, invest, and hold all contributions to the Fund, and shall pay and distribute all payments and loans from the Fund. The Trustees shall be empowered to take all steps appropriate or necessary to effectuate this Section and to see that the Fund is administered fairly and in accordance with any applicable laws. The Trustees shall be further empowered to dissolve the Fund and to roll any balance over into a new or existing Fund if, in their judgment, conditions warrant the change.

## **Policy and Procedures for Distribution and Collection of ROPA-ERF Loans**

For AFM members receiving loans from the ROPA-ERF, the Treasurer's Office shall implement the following policy for distribution, collection and/or recovery, effective immediately.

### **ROPA Delegate Handbook 2020**

- The Local Union shall notify the ROPA-ERF Administrator in writing that there are AFM members of a ROPA orchestra in need of a ROPA-ERF loan. Non-AFM members are not eligible for loans from the ROPA-ERF.
- The ROPA-ERF Administrator will forward the ERF request to the ROPA ERF Trustees on behalf of the Local Union.
- The AFM Secretary-Treasurer will calculate the funds available as per the AFM Bylaws.
- The ROPA-ERF Trustees will vote on the release of funds for the orchestra in need.
- The ROPA-ERF Administrator will notify the Local Union of the decision of the Trustees.
- If the release of funds has been approved, the Local Union will forward in writing any and all requests for loans from individual AFM members of the orchestra in question.
- The AFM Secretary-Treasurer's office shall send out for signature the ROPA-ERF Promissory Note to each individual AFM member requesting a loan.
- When the signed note is returned to the AFM, the Secretary Treasurer will countersign and return a fully-executed copy to the individual musician and the Local Union for their records.
- A check will be released to the individual musician.
- The Local Union must notify the Secretary-Treasurer's office as well as the ROPA-ERF Administrator with information to assist the Trustees in determining that the job action is resolved.
- The final decision regarding the resolution of the event is determined by the ROPA-ERF Trustees.
- Loans shall be repaid in 12 equal monthly installments commencing on the first day of the month following resolution of the confrontation.
- Twenty days prior to the loan becoming due for installment or lump- sum repayment, the finance department shall notify the member in writing of when the first payment is due, the amount, and the time schedule for future installments (example: 12/10 notice for a 1/1 due date). The members shall receive a copy of his/her promissory note and a ledger sheet follow-up for internal control purposes. Copies of the loan repayment package shall be sent to Symphonic Services Division (SSD) including the ROPA-ERF Administrator, ERF Trustees and the appropriate orchestra representative.
- The AFM Finance Department shall send a reminder notice to the member who is delinquent in his/her payment ten days after the due date requesting immediate payment. (Example: 1/10 notice for a past due payment due 1/1 to be paid upon receipt of delinquency notice).
- A second notice shall be sent to the member who is delinquent thirty days in his/her payment on the due date of the second installment requesting payment of the past due and current payment in ten days. (Example: 2/1 notice for two payments due 1/1/ and 2/1 to be paid on 2/10). Copies to SSD and the appropriate orchestra representative.
- A final notice shall be sent by certified mail/RRR to the members who is sixty days delinquent in his/her payments fifteen days after the due date of the second installment demanding all past due payments upon receipt of the final notice. (Example: 2/15 notice for two payments due 1/1/ and 2/1 to be paid upon receipt of the final notice). The

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member's appropriate orchestra representative and/or local union shall be contacted by SSD for assistance in collecting this debt. Copies will be sent to SSD and ERF Trustees.

- A final demand shall be sent to the member by certified mail/RRR when his/her loan is three months delinquent advising that the loan is in default and repayment of the entire outstanding loan is now required in fifteen days or the matter will be turned over for collection. (Example: 3/1/ notice for repayment in full on 3/15). Copies will be sent to SSD, ERF Trustees, the local union and the appropriate orchestra representative.
- When the loan becomes four months delinquent, it will be turned over for collection. The Secretary-Treasurer office will attempt to file internal union disciplinary charges. Copies will be sent to SSD, Secretary, and Treasurer's offices, ERF Trustees, local union and the appropriate orchestra representative.

## **AMERICAN FEDERATION OF MUSICIANS SYMPHONY-OPERA STRIKE FUND**

Participation in the Fund shall be on a voluntary basis by those groups eligible.

A member of the ROPA Executive Board always serves as a trustee of the fund.

### **Eligibility**

- A Collective Bargaining Agreement providing for a minimum weekly section player salary of at least \$300 and a season of at least 15 weeks of employment. The Trustees are authorized to waive the requirements set forth in (I) and/or increase the minimum salary requirements if, in their judgment, conditions warrant the change.

### **Application**

- Prior to December 1 of any given year, the orchestra committee and the local shall communicate in writing with the AFM indicating interest in joining the Strike Fund. Such communication shall include:
  1. A copy of the current Collective Bargaining Agreement.
  2. The number of musicians in the orchestra.
  3. Proposed number of beneficiary musicians and basis therefore.
- The letter of interest shall be circulated to the Trustees, together with a recommendation from SSD, who shall determine the orchestra's eligibility and the number or definition of beneficiary musicians for that orchestra.
- Upon determination that an orchestra is eligible to join and the determination of the beneficiary musicians, the Trustees may give conditional approval to the application, subject to a vote of the orchestra.
- Upon a secret ballot 2/3rd majority vote of the beneficiary musicians in an orchestra, the Trustees shall automatically approve admission without further discussion unless a Trustee requests that the application be held for further discussion. In such case, a subsequent majority vote of the trustees shall be required to approve the application.

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- Once a group has in this manner become a participant in the Fund, it must remain in the Fund.

### Payment of Strike Fund Dues

- On or about February 1, the AFM will send a bill to the Local union and player conference delegate, including the number of participants for which premiums are due.
- Each beneficiary musician in a participating orchestra shall contribute annually to the Fund according to the contribution and benefit schedule set forth in Section V, covering a span between September 1 and August 31, and such dues shall be paid no later than April 1 within such span. If the assets of the fund drop below \$1,000,000, each beneficiary musician shall pay an additional 50 percent of his or her contribution as set forth in the schedule for that time span. The annual contribution amount shall thereafter be fixed at 150 percent of the contribution rate set forth in the schedule.
- Once an orchestra has elected to be a participant in the Strike Fund a single check, representing a contribution of the appropriate contribution rate times the total number of beneficiary musicians in the orchestra, must be forwarded to the SSD on or before April 1. The check shall be made payable to the "AFM Symphony-Opera Strike Fund."
- Accompanying the check shall be a personnel list, which shall provide the full name and address, including zip code of the musician, as well as his/her social security number, union card number and instrument he/she plays.
- If there is a vacancy and the orchestra wishes to maintain the same number of beneficiary musicians, the orchestra committee and Local union will determine how the responsibility for payment of these premiums will be shared among the musicians.
- If a beneficiary musician is on a leave of absence, the musician playing in the position pays the premium. If various musicians share the position, the premium is divided equally between them.
- When a beneficiary musician in one participating orchestra pays his/her Strike Fund premium and then moves to another participating orchestra, he/she shall be responsible for payment of the Strike Fund premium for the new position if the sum has not yet been paid.
- The Local is responsible for collection of the Strike Fund premium for each member orchestra. If the Local is unable to collect from particular individuals, the AFM will be notified. If the money cannot be collected by the AFM, the member shall be subject to disciplinary action under the AFM Bylaws.

### Benefits

- Strike Fund benefits are payable to AFM members in good standing for a strike or lockout provided that:
  - 1) A strike has been ordered or approved by the players of a participating orchestra
  - 2) AND the strike has been ordered or approved by the Local Executive Board

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3) AND a strike has been ordered or approved by the International President or Vice President from Canada, as is appropriate.

➤ Benefits are receivable on or after September 1 following two premium payments to the Strike Fund.

➤ Benefits shall be paid to the beneficiary musicians on strike or lockout according to the contribution and benefit table set forth in Section V provided, however, that the Trustees may determine that lesser payments, lesser duration or increased payments or duration are necessary or appropriate in order to preserve the fiscal soundness of the Fund or to respond to the individual situation. Benefits shall be paid:

1) Continuously upon commencement, notwithstanding dark weeks which may occurring during the benefit period unless the orchestra votes by two thirds secret ballot majority to suspend payments during dark weeks.

2) For a maximum period of 15 weeks per season when on a strike or locked out.

3) Up to a maximum of 8 weeks during a stoppage due to bankruptcy or permanent cancellation of a season. If substantive negotiations resume at a later date, benefits shall resume to a total of 15 aggregate weeks.

4) To commence with the second week of a strike or lockout. For Strike Fund purposes, a week is defined as the following:

(a) A six-day workweek, with one day (i.e., Monday) as a non-performing day.

(b) Any full week, as defined by the Master Agreement, for which a strike or lock-out continued, would call for benefit entitlement.

(c) Pro-rating of the weekly benefit amount would take place only for the last week in which the strike ends. The number of days from the day of the week in which the strike begins, through the end of the work stoppage, determines the amount of the benefit payment to be made. The benefit is to be calculated as 1/6 of the weekly amount reached for each day of the final week of the strike or lock out.

5) Processing of benefit payments shall begin one week following the commencement of the work stoppage.

a) Payments shall be made to the musician holding the chair at the time of the strike.

b) No payment to musician(s) who, prior to the work stoppage resign from the orchestra or are on a leave of absence.

c) Part-time players (e.g., orchestras with A/B contracts) who have made contributions to the Fund shall receive the same benefit payment as full time musicians.

d) If benefits are due and a beneficiary musician is on a leave, the person covering the position collects the benefits. If various musicians cover the chair, the musician(s) losing the work during the work stoppage, on a week by week basis

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receives the benefit.

e) If an orchestra makes payments for the full orchestra and then is playing short during the strike, the orchestra is entitled to receive payments as though it had not been playing short. For example, if the full complement of an orchestra is 76 and contributions are paid on 76 musicians, the Strike fund shall make payments to 76 musicians, regardless if, during a strike, the actual number of musicians is less than a full complement. The Local officer, in consultation with the orchestra committee, determines which additional musician(s) should receive that benefit.

### Schedule of Contributions and Benefits

Weekly Salary	Annual Premium	Wkly Benefit 2 <sup>nd</sup> — 4 <sup>th</sup> week	Wkly Benefit 5 <sup>th</sup> —10 <sup>th</sup> week	Wkly Benefit 11 <sup>th</sup> —16 <sup>th</sup> week
\$300 to \$599	\$37.50	\$75	\$150	\$225
\$600 to \$749	\$50.00	\$100	\$200	\$300
\$750 to \$899	\$62.50	\$125	\$250	\$375
\$900 and higher	\$75.00	\$150	\$300	\$450

The Trustees, at their sole discretion, may grant certain exceptions to the schedule of contributions and benefits as set forth below. Any request to the Trustees in this connection must come with a two-thirds majority secret ballot vote of the Orchestra members in support of such request.

a) An orchestra, upon application to join the Fund, may seek permission to participate at a higher benefit and contribution level than that for which it would normally qualify. Once its participation level has been established, however, it may not reduce its level of participation.

b) An orchestra already participating in the Fund at a lower contribution and benefit level may seek permission to upgrade its level. Benefits at the higher level would become available on September 1 of the second calendar year following the year in which the higher level of contribution is effected.

c) An orchestra participating in the Fund prior to September 15, 1999, shall be "grandfathered" and continue its participation at the highest contribution and benefit level. However, if it qualifies, such an orchestra may seek permission - on a one-time-only basis - to downgrade its level of participation.

## ROPA CONDUCTOR EVALUATION ONLINE SURVEY PROGRAM

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***This information is for ROPA Delegates only.***

***This document explains the use of the ROPA Conductor Evaluation Bank Electronic Survey, which went online September 28, 2019 replacing the paper survey form.***

### **Purpose**

The purpose of the ROPA Conductor Evaluation Program is to gather confidential opinions about conductors who have performed with ROPA orchestras and make the results available to assist orchestra search committees and review committees in selecting guest conductors and music director candidates, and renewing conducting staff.

### **Intention**

Conductor Evaluations should be administered for all guest conductors who appear with ROPA orchestras. A conductor search year, when multiple guest conductors appear, is an excellent time to gather information for the ROPA Conductor Evaluation Bank. In addition, the conducting staff (music director, pops conductor, etc.) of ROPA orchestras should be evaluated every few years. NOTE: Confidentiality is of the highest importance in maintaining the program.

### **Accessing the ROPA Conductor Evaluation Online Survey Request Form**

Conductor evaluations are an important part of the ROPA delegates' duties. You will need to provide the Conductor Evaluation Bank Administrator (Bank Administrator) with a list of email addresses of all orchestra members who are eligible to participate in the survey, as determined by your orchestra committee and/or Local. If you have any questions, please contact the Bank Administrator at [ropacebal@gmail.com](mailto:ropacebal@gmail.com). The following list details the process to request a Survey Monkey Conductor Evaluation Online Survey from the Bank Administrator:

- Log-on to [www.ropaweb.org](http://www.ropaweb.org) and sign-in with your member log-in and password.
- There are two ways of accessing the Conductor Evaluation Request Form:

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- Go to the menu bar under For Delegates and highlight Conductor Evaluation Request Form

### OR

- go to Conductor Eval and highlight For Delegates.
- Fill out all of the necessary information, especially your orchestra musicians' email addresses, and press Send. (After pressing "Send", make sure it says, "Your message was sent successfully. Thanks!")
- You will be sent a confirmation email from the Bank Administrator.
- All eligible musicians will receive a Survey Monkey survey via [ropaecba1@gmail.com](mailto:ropaecba1@gmail.com)
- For those orchestra musicians who do not have the means to complete an online survey, you may print a hard copy version for them to complete and mail by USPS. You may contact the Bank Administrator for mailing address information for the musician to mail the form back to the Bank Administrator.

## How Managers Access Results From the Conductor Evaluation Bank

To request evaluation results for a particular conductor, managers will complete an online request form and submit it to the Bank Administrator. By completing the form, managers agree to hold the information they receive in the strictest confidence and not reveal the information to anyone outside orchestra management. The form also contains an indemnification provision that holds harmless the orchestra's musicians, their AFM Local, And Bank Administrator against any claims arising from management's use of the Evaluation Results.

Managers can access the request for conductor files by going to [www.ropaweb.org](http://www.ropaweb.org), click on **Conductor Eval** on the menu bar, click on **For Managers** on the drop down, and fill out the necessary information and agreement. By filling out the request form, the manager is agreeing to the following:

- We request conductor evaluation results for internal review purposes only.
- We agree that we will not disclose this material in whole or in part to anyone outside the management of this organization, including but not limited to conductors, their agents, or the media.
- For purposes of the foregoing, "management of this organization" may include persons such as musicians and members of the Board of Directors or organization who are members of conductor search committees, whether or not employed as management staff.
- Upon conclusion of our review, we will promptly destroy this material, which includes deleting all electronic files and shredding all paper copies in our possession that contain this material.
- We agree to indemnify and hold harmless ROPA, its officers, agents, and employees, the musicians of the orchestra named below, and the AFM Local representing those musicians for any and all losses, damages, or expenses incurred in connection with any claim, action, liability, or suit brought by any party that may arise or result from our use of the conductor evaluation results.

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When the Bank Administrator receives a request form, they will contact the requesting manager to confirm the requested conductor(s) is/are in the ROPA Conductor Evaluation Bank. The Bank Administrator also has access to conductor evaluation results in the International Conference of Symphony and Opera Musicians (ICSOM) and Organization of Canadian Symphony Musicians (OCSM) Conductor Evaluation Banks, and managers may request evaluation results on conductors from these banks through the Bank Administrator.

### **When to Use the Conductor Evaluation Bank**

The ROPA Conductor Evaluation Bank is intended to be used during a search or contract renewal of conducting staff (music director, pops conductor, etc.). During a search process the evaluations are to be used only when the field of candidates has been narrowed to a short list. Use of the ROPA Conductor Evaluation Bank is not intended for viewing the files of all candidates who have applied for a conducting position.

### **Prohibited Use of the ROPA Conductor Evaluation Form**

Any use of the ROPA Conductor Evaluation Survey Form other than as prescribed in the ROPA Handbook will be considered a misuse of the form. An orchestra may choose to create a conductor evaluation form for its personal, in-house use only. These evaluations will not be eligible for inclusion in the ROPA Conductor Evaluation Bank.

## CODE OF ETHICAL AUDITION PRACTICES APPROVED BY THE ORCHESTRA AND MANAGEMENT CONFERENCES

AFM *International Musician*, August 1996

*The following code of ethical audition practices, approved in 1984 by the International Conference of Symphony and Opera Musicians (ICSOM), the Major Orchestra Managers Conference (MOMC) and the AFM, is a document of suggested procedure for management and orchestra musicians alike. As with all codes of ethics, it is not a contract; no one is involuntarily bound to it and it contains no provisions for punitive action. Those who endorsed it have maintained that they will conduct their auditions in accordance with the principles articulated therein, with the tacit assertion that they think others should do likewise. The Code of Ethics was conceived and formulated by the Major Managers-ICSOM liaison Committee, constituting the first time that both ICSOM and MOMC have acted in concert rather than autonomously in addressing such a major issue. In the belief that the Code may be improved over time, it includes a provision for regular review by a joint committee of representatives from the three endorsing organizations. The Code has also been approved by the Regional Orchestra Players' Association (ROPA) and the Regional Orchestra Managers' Conference (ROMC). A similar code exists in Canada between OCSM and the Association of Canadian Orchestras.*

### **Purpose and Scope of Code**

It is of utmost importance to musicians, managers and conductors that auditions be conducted in accordance with guidelines ensuring competition that is fair to all who audition while providing the best results for orchestras seeking musicians. Therefore, the AFM, ICSOM and MOMC propound the following ethical and fair audition practices to which all parties should adhere, subject to local contractual consideration.

### **Preparation for Auditions**

1. Notices of auditions should be given only for genuine vacancies, including newly created positions, which the management intends to fill as a result of those auditions, with no predeterminations having been made as to who will be hired. Musicians taking such auditions should only do so with the intention of accepting the position if it is offered.
2. Auditions should be advertised in appropriate places, including the *International Musician*. Notices should be clear and complete, specifying the position intended to be filled by the auditions, the person to contact in response to the notice and the dates that applications are due and that auditions should be held. Notices should appear far enough in advance of auditions for interested musicians to apply and adequately prepare.
3. All applicants should be sent written responses to their applications. Invited applicants should be sent clear instructions setting forth the date, time and place of the audition, the complete audition repertoire (excluding sight-reading repertoire) and parts for announced excerpts not generally available. All parts supplied by the orchestra should be legible and identical for all candidates.

Applicants should be given notice that if they choose not to attend the audition they should promptly notify the personnel manager or other designated person.

## Conduct of Auditions

1. In preparing for and conducting auditions, all participants should be aware of policies and procedure governing those auditions, including this code.
2. Although the existence and composition of an audition committee and the nature and extent of its participation in auditioning and hiring is determined locally, musicians' involvement should at least include the initial screening of applicants.
3. Applicants should not be disqualified from an audition on the basis of information about them obtained from current or previous employers or from other institutions to which they have applied.
4. Auditionees should be given sufficient time and, to the extent possible, adequate private facilities in which to warm up and practice.
5. Parts supplied by the orchestra for auditions should be in good condition, legible and clearly marked as intended to be played at the audition.
6. There should be no discrimination on the basis of race, sex, age, creed, national origin, religion or sexual preference; steps ensuring this should exist in all phases of the audition process.
7. There should be reasonable accommodation for the handicapped.
8. Auditionees should be given opportunity and encouragement to comment, anonymously if desired, to the audition committee and management about the audition process.
9. Auditionees should be notified of their status in the audition process immediately upon such determination. Candidates under active consideration after auditions are completed should be so notified and given an estimated time of final decision.
10. Auditionees should be informed prior to auditions of the orchestra's policy regarding reimbursement of auditionees' expenses for additional stay or travel incurred at the request of management.

## AFM SYMPHONIC SERVICES DIVISION

The AFM Symphonic Services Division (“SSD”) is a resource for ROPA delegates, Orchestra Committee Members, and Local officers. Its existence is a direct result of the advocacy of orchestral musicians. A wealth of information can be found at:

**<https://members.afm.org/member/page/id/10633>**

The information below should be shared with your orchestra committees and local officers.

ICSOM’s long standing request for a department of the American Federation of Musicians devoted to symphony affairs was met for many years by the part-time attention of presidential assistants. Gil Rogers was succeeded briefly by Robert Crothers in 1969 and then by Ted Dreher. Upon Dreher’s retirement in 1982, AFM president Victor Fuentealba appointed Lewis Waldeck, the first full-time administrator of the AFM Symphony Department.

In 1994, Lew Waldeck retired as administrator, and Florence Nelson was appointed Director of Symphonic Services by AFM President Mark Massagli. Upon Ms. Nelson’s election to the position of AFM Secretary-Treasurer in 2001, President Lee appointed Janice Galassi Director of the Symphonic Services Division (SSD). In March of 2004, Ms. Galassi was appointed Director of Organizing and Education and in July, 2004, President Lee appointed SSD Canada Director Laura Brownell as Director of the entire Symphonic Services Division. Brownell resigned her position in August 2008 and Christopher Durham was appointed SSD Director by Tom Lee in March 2009.

In August 2011, Jay Blumenthal was appointed SSD Director and Assistant Treasurer by AFM President Ray Hair. After Mr. Blumenthal’s election to the position of AFM Secretary-Treasurer in 2016, President Hair appointed Rochelle Skolnick in October of 2016 as Director of Symphonic Services and Special Counsel to the AFM.

The SSD offers assistance to Local Officers, Player Conferences, orchestra committees, and the general membership. The SSD serves as a primary resource to committees and Locals during negotiations and assists with data collection, strategic planning and contract language. The SSD also provides assistance with contract administration and enforcement, electronic media language and media projects.

The SSD also works alongside the Player Conferences to represent the symphonic membership of the AFM at the industry level. Relationships are developed and

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maintained with other cultural groups and agencies so that issues of common interest can be addressed in a concerted fashion.

A primary function of the SSD is to provide education and support to Local officers, committee leaders and rank and file members to prepare for challenges in contract negotiation, administration and enforcement. Support is provided through written materials, webinars and consultations by email, telephone and in-person. The AFM, through SSD, makes available to Locals at reduced cost a financial analysis of symphonic employers.

The SSD administers the Symphony Opera Orchestra Strike Fund and the ROPA Emergency Relief Fund. Currently there are sixty-five contributing orchestras in the Strike Fund.

In the realm of symphonic electronic media, SSD continues to assist locals, committees, and managers in their media projects by administering national media agreements, working together with negotiating committees and their Locals in advising on contract media language, determining the appropriate media agreement for proposed projects and assisting through the project's completion.

In preparation for the publication of the AFM comparative Wage Charts, the SSD collates the information for all 159 orchestras in the Symphonic Players' Conferences (52 in ICSOM, 86 in ROPA, and 21 in OCSM). In addition, the staff contributes articles to the International Musician and provides research as needed for local officers, the Symphonic Player Conferences, and newspaper editors.

The AFM's Symphonic Services Division works closely with orchestras, Locals and other AFM departments to best represent and advocate for symphonic musicians throughout the U.S. and Canada.

### **New York Staff**

**Rochelle G. Skolnick**, Director and Special Counsel/Assistant to the President (ext. 1220; 314-756-3858; [rskolnick@afm.org](mailto:rskolnick@afm.org))

Rochelle was appointed Director of Symphonic Services and Special Counsel in October of 2016. Prior to her appointment, Rochelle practiced union-side labor law for 10 years at the law firm of Schuchat, Cook & Werner in St. Louis. She has served as SSD Counsel since 2009. Rochelle graduated from the Interlochen Arts Academy and the Eastman School of Music and worked as a symphonic and recording violinist, performing with the Syracuse Symphony, Fort

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Wayne Philharmonic, Florida Philharmonic and Palm Beach Opera. She served as Orchestra Committee Chair and ROPA delegate for the Palm Beach Opera Orchestra. In 2003 she left full-time work as a musician to attend law school at Washington University in St. Louis, where she served as Executive Notes & Projects Editor of the Journal of Law & Policy. She received the Mary Collier Hitchcock Prize for her article, Control, Collaboration or Coverage: The NLRA and the St. Paul Chamber Orchestra Dilemma (20 Wash. U. J. L. & Pol’y 403).

**Deborah Newmark**, Director of Symphonic Electronic Media (ext. 1225; 646-269-1823; [dnewmark@afm.org](mailto:dnewmark@afm.org))

Debbie has been on the staff of the AFM since 1997, first serving as a Contract Administrator for one year prior to moving to her current position. She is also the administrator of the AFM Symphony-Opera Strike Fund. As a bass player, she was a long-standing member of the Long Island Philharmonic where she held the position of committee chair and ROPA delegate for many years. She was also an active free-lancer in a variety of NY ensembles including New York City Opera, New York Pops, Little Orchestra Society and more. In addition to both Bachelor and Masters’ Degrees in performance from the Manhattan School of Music, Debbie has a Master’s Degree in Arts Administration from Columbia University.

**Laurence Hofmann**, Contract Administrator, Communications & Data Coordinator (ext. 1211; [lhofmann@afm.org](mailto:lhofmann@afm.org))

Laurence joined the SSD staff in 2014 after serving in various departments at the AFM for more than a year. With her own company Wildside Media she has been producing European indie films on social issues for the international market (including an American co-production with Steven Spielberg and the Shoah Foundation for “Volevo solo vivere (I only wanted to live)”). She also produced the album “Unmade Beds” of the emerging Italian band Marti. Laurence has worked in Rome, Italy as a production consultant at Cinecitta’ Studios (“Hollywood on the Tiber”) and created the multimedia division for music recording company Universo Spa. During her tenure at the MonteCinemaVerita’ Foundation she traveled extensively throughout the world speaking at film markets. She holds a PhD. in Analytic Philosophy with degrees in the Humanities from the Universities of Bern, Switzerland and Heidelberg, Germany. Her great-grandfather was the founder of the labour party in Italian-speaking Switzerland.

## AMERICAN FEDERATION OF MUSICIANS 2020

### Offices

#### New York

1501 Broadway, 9<sup>th</sup> Floor  
New York NY 10036  
Toll-Free: 800-762-3444  
NYC: 212-869-1330  
FAX: 212-764-6134  
Website: www.afm.org

#### West Coast

3220 Winona Avenue  
Burbank, CA 91504  
LA: 818-565-3400  
FAX: 818-565-3455

#### Canada

150 Ferrand Dr., Suite 202  
Toronto, ON Canada M3C 3E5  
Canada: 416-391-5161  
FAX: 416-391-5165

#### AFM Officers

Ray Hair, President  
Bruce Fife, Vice President  
Alan Willaert, Vice President from Canada  
Jay Blumenthal, Secretary-Treasurer

#### International Executive Board

John Acosta [Local 47 – Los Angeles CA]  
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Ed Malaga [President, Local 161-710 Washington, DC]  
Tina Morrison [President, Local 105 – Spokane WA]  
Dave Pomeroy [President, Local 257 – Nashville TN]

Cherie Yurco, *Managing Editor of International Musician Magazine* Tel: 315-422-0900 (ext. 113)  
[cyurco@bentley-hall.com]

#### Symphonic Services Division

Rochelle G. Skolnick, *Director/Special Counsel/Asst. to the President* (ext. 1220) (314/756-3858)  
[rskolnick@afm.org]

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Deborah Newmark, *Director of Symphonic Electronic Media* (ext. 1225) (646/269-1823)  
[dnewmark@afm.org]

Chris Durham, *Chief Field Negotiator* (646/269-3760) [cdurham@afm.org]

Todd Jelen, *Negotiator/Organizer/Educator* (330/322-2265) [tjelen@afm.org]

Jane Owen, *Negotiator* (817/313-0887) [jowen@afm.org]

Laurence Hofmann, *Contract Admin./Communications & Data Coordinator* (ext. 1211)  
[lhofmann@afm.org]

Bernard LeBlanc, *SSD Canada Director, CFM* – (514/297-0509) [bleblanc@afm.org]

Richard Sandals, *SSD Canada Associate Director, CFM* (800/463-6333 x229)  
[rsandals@afm.org]

Audition Complaint Hotline: 330/322-2265

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**GLOSSARY**  
**The AFM Alphabet Soup**

ACO	Association of Canadian Orchestras
ACTRA	Assoc. of Canadian Television and Radio Actors
AE	Actors Equity
AFL-CIO	American Federation of Labor – Congress of Industrial Organizations
AFM	American Federation of Musicians
AFM-EPF	American Federation of Musicians and Employers’ Pension Fund (U.S.)
AFM-EPW	American Federation of Musicians’ and Employers’ Pension & Welfare (Canada)
AFTRA	Am. Federation of Television and Radio Artists
AGMA	American Guild of Musical Artists
ASOL	American Symphony Orchestra League – Now -League of American Orchestras
AV	Symphony, Opera, Ballet Audio-Visual Agreement
BU	Bargaining unit
CANADA COUNCIL	Canadian Council of the Arts
CBA	Collective Bargaining Agreement
CBC	Canadian Broadcasting Company
CC	Canadian Conference
CCA	Canadian Conference of the Arts
CLC	Central Labor Council
CWA	Communication Workers of America
DFR	Duty of Fair Representation
DGA	Directors Guild of America
DIDO	Dollar In, Dollar Out
EMSD	Electronic Media Services Division

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ERF	Emergency Relief Fund (ROPA)
IATSE	Int'l Alliance of Theater and Stage Employees
IBB	Interest-Based Bargaining
ICSOM	International Conference of Symphony and Opera Musicians
IEB	International Executive Board
IM	International Musician
IRC	Industrial Relations Council (some Canadian provinces)
LCC	Local Conferences Council
LEADING TONE	ROPA Newsletter
MOLA	Major Orchestra Librarians Association
MPTF	Music Performance Trust Funds
NEA	National Endowment for the Arts (U.S.)
NLRA	National Labor Relations Act
NLRB	National Labor Relations Board
NPR	National Public Radio
NPTV	National Public Television Agreement
O&E	Organizing and Education Department
OCSM/OCSOM	Organization of Canadian Symphony Musicians
OFFICERS' EDGE	AFM LOCAL OFFICERS Newsletter
OSP	Orchestra Services Program
PCC	Players Conferences Council
PIT BULLETIN	TMA Newsletter
PRLA	Phonograph Record Labor Agreement
PSA	Personal Service Agreement
RMA	Recording Musicians Association
ROPA	Regional Orchestra Players Association
SAG	Screen Actors Guild
SENZA SORDINO	ICSOM Newsletter

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SOI	Symphony Orchestra Institute
SPF	Special Payments Fund
SSD	Symphonic Services Division
TA	Tentative Agreement
T&T	Traveling and Touring
TEMPO	Political Action Fund
TMA	Theater Musicians Association
ULP	Unfair Labor Practice
UNA VOCE	OCSM/OCSOM Newsletter
WGA	Writers' Guild of America