



June 9, 2023

On behalf of the Regional Orchestra Players' Association Executive Board, I am pleased to invite you to the 40<sup>th</sup> Annual ROPA Conference! This year's conference will be held at the Downtown Atlanta Sheraton Hotel, beginning Tuesday, July 25 through Thursday, July 27. The AFM Negotiating Orchestras Workshop Seminar will take place on Monday, July 24<sup>th</sup>.

We offer our sincere appreciation to American Federation of Musicians Local 148-462, President Bruce Kenney, Vice Presidents Michael Moore and James Patterson, Secretary-Treasurer David Ramirez, and the Musicians of the Atlanta Opera and the Atlanta Ballet Orchestras for their generosity in hosting this year's ROPA conference.

As at any ROPA Conference, there will be a variety of speakers sharing important information that we can take back to our orchestras, and many opportunities to discuss issues with our ROPA colleagues and with AFM and Symphonic Services Division (SSD) staff.

Our speakers this year will include representatives from the Atlanta Federation of Musicians, Local 148-462, and other speakers from the Atlanta area. The Conference will include several interesting and informative presentations, including Taxes for Musicians with Rick Basehore; the Federal Mediation and Conciliation Service (FMCS) with mediators Kent McVey and Dan Ross, The Musician as Athlete: Performing Artists and Special Considerations for Medical Evaluation, Diagnosis and Care with Valerie Tollinger, a Job Action Panel on the Fort Wayne Philharmonic, Opera Philadelphia, and the Minnesota Opera Orchestra with Symphonic Services Division Negotiators Todd Jelen and Adam DeSorgo, AFM President, Diversity, Legislative and Political Director Alfonso Pollard, and other valuable sessions by the SSD.

In addition, SSD staff will be holding the annual Negotiation Workshop for orchestra representatives and Local officers on Monday, July 24, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. One representative from each orchestra negotiating this coming year is eligible to receive reimbursement by the AFM for one day's hotel expenses and per diem for one day. Any registered attendee is welcome to attend the negotiations workshop.

The business of ROPA includes making and approving resolutions, updating bylaws, and electing new Officers and Members at Large of the ROPA Executive Board. Board positions are two-year terms, with alternating halves of the Board elected each year. The open positions this year are Vice President, Secretary, Delegate at Large to the AFM Convention, and four Members at Large (MALs). Please consider running for one of these important ROPA positions!

This Conference is a special one, being our 40<sup>th</sup>. Since ROPA was established, we have grown from representatives from 13 orchestras meeting in Columbus OH back in 1984 to 97 member orchestras today that include over 6000 musicians from all over the Nation. We have a long history of collegial respect and solidarity. Our story represents a generation of change in our industry. Welcome to the next 40 years!

Steve Wade  
President, Regional Orchestra Players' Association