

Tahoe Symphony Orchestra & Chorus (TOCCATA)

ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

POSITION SUMMARY

The Artistic Director is the key artistic leader and is responsible for the artistic operation and development of TOCCATA Tahoe Symphony ("TOCCATA"), pursuant to policies established by the Board of Directors. The Artistic Director will work in close cooperation with the Board and the Executive Director to ensure that programming reflects TOCCATA's culture and supports and helps to grow our audience and donor base, within the limits set by TOCCATA's annual budget.

The Artistic Director is charged with taking each musician and the orchestra and chorus as a whole to the highest possible artistic level. The Artistic Director has the final responsibility for making decisions of an artistic nature, including, but not limited to, the selection and overseeing auditions of personnel for the orchestra, selection of repertoire, and selection of guest artists and guest conductors. TOCCATA presents 6 - 7 productions per season, utilizing an ensemble of approximately 35 instrumentalists. The Artistic Director will work with the Chorus Master to incorporate a choral component in approximately 4 series within the season. The financial impact of these decisions must be made in collaboration with the Board and within the limits of available resources.

ABOUT US

TOCCATA (an acronym formed from our legal name, The Orchestra and Community Choral Artists of the Tahoe Area, Inc.) is celebrating its 20th anniversary. Founded in 2005 as a 501(c)(3) non-profit musical arts organization based at Lake Tahoe, Nevada, TOCCATA's mission is to raise awareness and appreciation of classical orchestral and choral music by bringing quality affordable performances to the greater Reno-Tahoe Area, and to provide a venue for musicians to display and develop their talents. With its first gift from the Carol F. Buck Foundation, TOCCATA debuted at the Sand Harbor Summer Music Series. In 2009, TOCCATA presented its first performance of symphonic works and the name, "Tahoe Symphony Orchestra & Chorus", was created to identify this larger ensemble. TOCCATA's 20-year growth, based mostly on word-of-mouth advertising, has attracted many of the area's music lovers and a remarkable number of talented musicians. Our 20th anniversary season includes many new and innovative programs, with works spanning from Baroque to 20th century music including vocal masterworks. And, as always, our 2025 season brings these programs to venues throughout the Reno-Tahoe area, including Reno, Carson City and the Carson Valley, South Lake Tahoe and North Lake Tahoe/Truckee. In addition, the organization has enjoyed five successful tours beginning in 2015 to Italy, Salzburg and Prague, Slovakia/Hungary, Southern France and Spain and this past year in Greece.

Elizabeth Pitcairn has been our guest soloist for all the tours, and the organization is currently planning its sixth tour for Spring 2026.

ABOUT THE RENO/TAHOE AREA

The Reno-Tahoe area is easily accessed and has much to offer. The Reno-Tahoe International Airport is conveniently located in downtown Reno. Reno, “The Biggest Little City,” offers boutique hotels, craft breweries, and a thriving art scene as well as museums, gambling, and serene mountain vistas. Visitors can reach Lake Tahoe by car within approximately two hours from the Sacramento area, one hour from Reno or thirty minutes from Carson City and the Carson Valley. Lake Tahoe, and the Sierra Nevada mountain range in which it is located, are major tourist attractions in both Nevada and California: the lake offers beaches, water sports, hiking, biking, ski resorts and entertainment, and the mountains offer hiking, mountain biking and back-country skiing - all within easy reach. In addition, the Nevada side also offers several lakeside casino resorts, with highways providing year-round access to the entire area. Truckee, named #1 Coolest Ski Town in North America by Matador Network and celebrated by National Geographic and Travel & Leisure, Truckee isn't just a ski town, but a central location for all outdoor activities in the region in all seasons.

ARTISTIC DIRECTOR JOB DESCRIPTION

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REPORTING RELATIONSHIPS

The Artistic Director is accountable to the Board of Directors. The Artistic Director supervises the musicians and the Chorus Master under the terms of the employment agreement. The Artistic Director operates in a cooperative relationship with the Executive Director and coordinates artistic and production tasks with staff and contractors.

ON-SITE REQUIREMENTS

The Artistic Director shall be present in the Reno/Tahoe area for sufficient time to execute in-person tasks related to conducting rehearsals and performances – a minimum of two weeks per series is estimated. During this time, the Artistic Director shall also be available to represent the organization, alongside the Executive Director, for fundraising and publicity.

REQUIRED QUALIFICATIONS/SKILLS

- Education – Holds a master’s degree in conducting (or similar commensurate experience) and has demonstrated mastery in leading both orchestral and choral ensembles.
- Artistic Vision – Has demonstrated the ability to develop repertoire that is engaging to a wide audience. Is willing to develop an understanding of the community and create programming that is satisfying to the current patrons and will encourage new audiences. Is willing and able to work with the Board to develop and implement our mission.
- Excellent musicianship and conducting skills – Has experience conducting both professional and amateur instrumentalists and vocalists, ability to recruit and retain such musicians, and demonstrates efficient and effective use of rehearsal time. .
- Effective leader – Has the ability to cultivate a positive culture of trust, respect and leadership in the orchestra and community and inspire musicians to perform at the highest level.
- Strong communicator and collaborator – Works effectively with multiple constituencies – musicians, Board of Directors, music teachers, community leaders, students, media, and audiences.
- Fundraising - Has successfully cultivated and maintained donor relationships.
- Administrative Duties - Is clear and responsive in all forms of communication; prepares musical edits, revisions, scores and parts; provides artistic content to marketing staff for media and program materials; and is available for meetings.

SALARY/BENEFITS

The salary will be commensurate with experience and duties. For context, TOCCATA's annual operating budget is approximately \$350,000.

SUBMISSION

FULL CONSIDERATION will be given to applicants who submit materials no later than April 14th, 2025. Finalists will be required to program and conduct a concert with TOCCATA during the 2025 or 2026 season. The start date for the selected candidate will be in the 2026 season or the beginning of our 2027 season. Please submit the required materials below. ALL materials should be submitted in one email to searchcommittee@tahoesymphony.com.

- Letter of Interest
- Full Resume
- Representative and relevant list of works conducted
- 3 Reference Letters (1 from a musician you have directed, and 2 from board members or administrative leadership)
- 1-2 videos of a live performance showing the conductor from the orchestra or chorus perspective

PLEASE NOTE: Applicants must be authorized to work in the United States at the time of submission of materials and for the duration of employment. TOCCATA is an equal opportunity employer.