

Helena Symphony

ALLAN R. SCOTT | MUSIC DIRECTOR

JOB ANNOUNCEMENT ASSISTANT CONDUCTOR

The Assistant Conductor of the Helena Symphony Orchestra serves as a member of the artistic staff, as the “cover conductor” for the Music Director and any guest conductors, and conducts concert series as assigned. The Assistant Conductor will conduct several educational concerts, including working with the Education Coordinator to program and organize the Symphony Kids concerts. The Assistant Conductor will also attend most rehearsals and be prepared to conduct the Helena Symphony Orchestra, including the Masterworks Concert Series, Non-Series Concerts, Benefit Concert, and others as assigned. The Assistant Conductor may also receive one-on-one instruction from the Music Director to review repertoire and monthly lessons.

The Helena Symphony Orchestra is a 78-member regional professional orchestra working under a master agreement. Musicians commute from throughout the United States to Helena, Montana as members of the Helena Symphony Orchestra. The Helena Symphony Chorale is a 110-voice symphonic chorus that rehearses most weeks and performs with the Helena Symphony Orchestra on 4-7 concert series each season. The Helena Symphony performs 19-24 concerts each season and maintains several concert series, including the Masterworks Concert Series, Education Concert Series, a Benefit Concert, and Non-Series Concerts, including the annual Symphony Under the Stars with over 18,000 people in attendance from all over the world. The Symphony features some of the world’s most noted soloists, and the Symphony performs staged operas in addition to its concerts. The Helena Symphony has a 17 member staff (9 full time and 8 part time) and operates with a \$1.5 million budget.

Currently in his twenty-second season as Music Director of the Helena Symphony Orchestra & Chorale, Allan R. Scott is “one of the most dynamic figures in symphonic music and opera.” He is widely recognized for his outstanding musicianship, versatility, and ability to elicit top-notch performances from musicians. SYMPHONY Magazine praised Maestro Scott for his “large orchestra view,” noting that “under Scott’s leadership the quality of the orchestra’s playing has skyrocketed.” Maestro Scott is praised as one of the most active arts leaders in the community. Through his community involvement, he raises over \$440k personally in the Helena community and has helped raise the budget to a thriving \$1.5 million. Additionally, he helped bring the average concertgoer age from 67 to 48-52 years old and has been noted by the press for his programming to attract younger audiences. In 2021, the Helena Symphony secured a life-time contract with Maestro Scott.

Dividing his time between residences in Helena and Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, the Philadelphia native is in his twenty-third season as Music Director of Pennsylvania’s Southeastern Pennsylvania Symphony in addition to serving as the Principal Conductor of the Wilmington Ballet Company in Delaware for the past fifteen years. He is also the Artist in Residence for NPR affiliate Montana Public Radio, hosting specials on Mahler, Bernstein, opera, and Morning Classics. Maestro Scott served as the head conductor for the International Musicians Academy in Europe, teaching the next generation of conductors, and working with the Sinfonietta Vidin.

The position exists to support the Helena Symphony’s mission and the artistic vision of the Music Director. The Assistant Conductor is responsible for working with and assisting the Helena Symphony in an open, efficient, and professional manner, and assisting the staff in the accomplishment of the Helena Symphony’s mission. The position is a part-time position paying \$8,000-\$12,000, along with monthly instruction and conducting several education concerts, and the possibility for additional performances. The Symphony may provide housing if the Assistant Conductor chooses to commute.

REQUIREMENTS

- * Working knowledge of symphonic repertoire, including orchestral, choral, and operatic works
- * Conducting experience with symphonic orchestras
- * Public speaking experience
- * Working knowledge of professional orchestra rehearsals, including understanding of collective bargaining rules and regulations
- * Ability to read music in all clefs and have a working knowledge of all orchestra instruments listed in several languages, specifically, but not limited to English, Italian, German, and French
- * Self-motivated, detail-oriented, and highly organized, with the ability to balance multiple tasks successfully
- * Ability to be flexible in various scenarios
- * Ability to maintain close, collaborative working relationships with staff
- * Ability to listen and respond with the respect and understanding and a willingness to seek solutions
- * Be able to work independently and manage time efficiently
- * Highest integrity and ethical standards
- * Understands and supports the mission, goals, structure, and artistic vision of the Helena Symphony
- * Appreciation for classical music and understanding of its value in the community

RESPONSIBILITIES

- * Responsible for maintaining a thorough understanding of all repertoire scheduled to be performed by the Helena Symphony Orchestra, including performance markings, rehearsal requirements, and performance practices.
- * Be well prepared to conduct performances as the cover conductor, by attending Orchestra rehearsals including, at minimum, the final two rehearsals of the Orchestra of concerts assigned to cover.
- * Meet with the Music Director regularly to review “cover conductor” preparation.
- * Work with the Education Coordinator in preparing Education Concerts (Symphony Kids and / or Youth Concert) as assigned by the Music Director
- * Conduct any concerts, or part of concerts, assigned by the Music Director. Meet with the Music Director as desired or requested for each concert series to review repertoire, performance markings, performance practices, and any rehearsal logistics.
- * Attend meetings as requested.
- * Maintain a working knowledge of the Master Agreement that governs the contractual relationship with the musicians of the Helena Symphony Orchestra, and any other personnel policies of the Helena Symphony Orchestra & Chorale.
- * Serve as a member of the audition committee for auditions for the Helena Symphony Orchestra as requested.
- * Demonstrate ethical and professional behavior with the musicians of the Helena Symphony Orchestra & Chorale, Staff, Board of Directors, and Symphony supporters, volunteers, patrons, and subscribers.

HOW TO APPLY

- * Send letter of interest, resume, repertoire conducted, and links to videos 10-20 minutes in duration (preferably in rehearsal and performance)
- * Selected candidates may be invited to audition with the Helena Symphony Orchestra.
- * Deadline to receive materials is 31 March 2025 with finalists potentially conducting part of a rehearsal the first week in May 2025.
- * Send materials to Director of Artistic Planning Rehanna Olson (artisticplanning@helenasympphony.org).