

# SKAGIT SYMPHONY



Music Director Job Description - July 2017

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## Music Director

Skagit Symphony – a community orchestra in Mount Vernon, WA.

The Skagit Symphony (herein, “Symphony”) is seeking a **Music Director** with strong organizational and interpersonal skills who works closely with the musicians, the Executive Director and administrative staff, and the Symphony’s board of directors.

Position Type:	Part-time employee including non-standard hours
Compensation Range:	\$20,000 to \$25,000 annually (commensurate with experience)
Application Period:	July 10 to October 31, 2017
Rehearsals by Finalists:	6-7 times in Mount Vernon prior to a Saturday concert during the 2018/2019 season.
Start Date:	May 1, 2019. The new Music Director will be in place for the 2019/2020 season.

**Symphony Background.** The Symphony is a 60-member volunteer community orchestra established in 1979. Current Music Director Roupen Shakarian has led the Symphony since 2004. The Symphony performs four concerts during the subscription season at McIntyre Hall in Mount Vernon. In addition, the Symphony performs three school concerts on the last Friday in January that serves approximately 1800 fifth grade students annually, as well as the same program at a family concert on the following Sunday. McIntyre Hall is a world-class, 650-seat performance hall designed by LMN Architects, whose design work also includes Seattle’s Benaroya Hall. For additional information please see website: [www.skagitsymphony.com](http://www.skagitsymphony.com)

**Duties.** The following are the duties and responsibilities of the Skagit Symphony Music Director:

### Music

1. Rehearse weekly on Monday nights during the orchestra season (September to late April) and conduct season concerts.
2. Select repertoire appropriate for the orchestra.
3. Audition new musicians.
4. Select soloists for the season.
5. Coordinate with orchestra members for subs and additional musicians.
6. Give pre-concert lectures.
7. Write script for School/Family Concerts.
8. Coordinate stage logistics with McIntyre Hall stage manager.
9. Evaluate opportunities for music education within the community.
10. Make arrangements for renting piano/harpsichord, etc.

### Administration

1. Work closely with the Executive Director and staff.
2. Attend monthly board meetings as *ex officio* (non-voting) member of the board.
3. Act as an advisor to various committees.
4. Provide season repertoire, soloist, and rehearsal information to the office.
5. Provide season program information.
6. Work within a budget for soloist fees and music purchases.
7. Coordinate with music librarian regarding concert music needs and purchases.
8. Participate in fundraising and promotional endeavors of the orchestra.
9. Willing to become involved in the function of the orchestra’s outreach and community activities.



**Qualities.** These are the leadership qualities the Skagit Symphony looks for in its Music Director:

1. Proficient conducting and rehearsal techniques.
2. An acute ear for orchestral intonation, balance, color, and transposition.
3. Well-informed in theory and analysis, and repertoire.
4. Sufficient knowledge of orchestral instruments, primarily strings.
5. Instinct for developing imaginative programming ideas.
6. Provide a welcoming and educational environment at rehearsals of a community orchestra.
7. Communicate and relate warmly and easily with orchestra members.
8. Engage enthusiastically with patrons and audiences.
9. Strong interests in musical education, outreach, and audience development initiatives to help secure the future for orchestral music.

## Requirements

1. Bachelor's degree; Master's degree in Music preferred.
2. Experience conducting an adult community orchestra.
3. Proficient in English.
4. This position reports directly to the Symphony board of directors.
5. Legally able to work for any employer within the United States.
6. Willing to make a 2-3 year minimum commitment.

## Application

Please submit to the Skagit Symphony via email at [musdirsearch@skagitsymphony.com](mailto:musdirsearch@skagitsymphony.com) the following items:

1. Application letter
2. Resume
3. List of three references with contact information
4. Website or YouTube link of your conducting (if available)

Application materials will be accepted between July 10 and October 31, 2017.