Music Director & Conductor

Alpine Orchestra - Position Description

Location: Buena Vista, Colorado | Upper Arkansas Valley
Website: https://www.alpineorchestra.org

About Alpine Orchestra

Founded in 1991, Alpine Orchestra is a nonprofit community orchestra serving Buena Vista, Salida, Leadville, and the surrounding Upper Arkansas Valley. The orchestra brings together volunteer musicians of diverse ages, backgrounds, and experience levels through a shared love of orchestral music.

Our mission is to share the enjoyment of orchestral music with our communities, strive for musical excellence, and expand opportunities for young and developing musicians. We aim to foster an inclusive, rewarding environment where musicians can grow, collaborate, and contribute to a vibrant local arts community.

Position Overview

The Music Director & Conductor provides artistic leadership for Alpine Orchestra, overseeing concert programming, rehearsal preparation and conducting, musician development, and contributing to community engagement. Working collaboratively with the Board of Directors, the conductor balances artistic ambition with the needs of a volunteer ensemble and fosters a positive, supportive musical environment.

Schedule & Time Commitment

Alpine Orchestra presents two concert series annually:

- **Fall Season:** Eight rehearsals followed by three concerts. Typically start rehearsals in mid-Sept for concerts in mid-November.
- **Spring Season:** Eight rehearsals followed by three concerts. Typically start rehearsals in late Feb or early March, for concerts in mid-to-late April.
- **Rehearsals:** Currently Mondays, 7:00–9:00 PM, in Buena Vista.
- **Performances:** Three consecutive concerts per season, typically Friday in Leadville, Saturday in Salida, and Sunday in Buena Vista. The 2027 Spring Concerts are scheduled for April 16, 17 & 18.

The position requires attendance at 16 rehearsals and six concerts annually, including evening and weekend commitments and travel between concert locations. Additional time is required for rehearsal planning, programming, communication, and coordination.

Key Responsibilities

Artistic Direction & Programming

- Select repertoire appropriate to the orchestra's instrumentation, skill levels, and artistic goals and present a proposed program to the Board for approval 6-8 weeks before each season.
- Provide input on performance venues and related logistical considerations as needed.

Rehearsals & Performances

- Prepare and conduct all scheduled rehearsals and concerts.
- Develop structured, efficient rehearsal plans that maximize limited rehearsal time and prioritize musical improvement.
- Arrange for a qualified substitute conductor when necessary in coordination with the Board.

Musician Leadership & Development

- Confirm chair and part assignments and appoint sectional rehearsal leaders as appropriate.
- Oversee auditions or musician evaluations when necessary or desirable.
- Foster a respectful, collaborative rehearsal environment that accommodates musicians of varying abilities and experience levels.

Organizational Collaboration & Community Engagement

- Maintain regular communication with the Board regarding programming, artistic needs, rehearsal progress, and other relevant matters.
- Coordinate with designated volunteers on music acquisition and instrumentation needs.
- Participate in orchestra promotions and serve as a liaison with local musicians, music educators, and the regional arts community.

Qualifications

Required

- Demonstrated experience conducting instrumental ensembles and leading rehearsals.
- Strong musicianship, score preparation skills, and knowledge of orchestral repertoire and instrumentation.
- Effective communication, organizational, and interpersonal skills.
- Ability to lead musicians of varying experience levels with clarity, respect, and adaptability.
- Availability for the orchestra's scheduled rehearsals and performances.

Preferred

- Experience conducting orchestras with both string and wind instruments. Experience with community or volunteer ensembles is a plus.
- Formal education or training in conducting, music education, or a related field.
- Experience with concert programming, musician development, and collaborative artistic leadership.

Governance & Performance Review

The Music Director & Conductor serves at the discretion of the Alpine Orchestra Board of Directors. The conductor will work collaboratively with the Board on artistic and organizational matters, including concert programming. After the spring concerts, the board will provide an employee review with the conductor. At that time, the contract can be renewed for a full year with annual reviews after each spring concert series.

Position Terms

The Music Director & Conductor serves as an independent contractor employed by Alpine Orchestra Inc, with a stipend of **$3,000 paid after each concert series.** Additional terms may be established in agreement with the Board of Directors.

Candidate Selection

Please review the next page for instructions and further details on the application process and timeline. You may contact alpOrchBoard@googlegroups.com with any questions. We look forward to hearing from you!

Conductor Application Process

Alpine Orchestra is accepting applications for its next Music Director & Conductor.

Get to Know the Orchestra — Before You Apply

Prospective candidates are invited to observe one or more of Alpine Orchestra's remaining rehearsals and/or fall concerts to get a sense of the ensemble, its musicians, and its musical environment.

- **Rehearsal Dates:** October 26, November 2, November 9, from 7-9pm in Buena Vista
- **Concert dates:** November 13th in Leadville, November 14th in Salida, November 15th in Buena Vista

This is an optional opportunity to explore whether the position may be a good fit before committing to an application. **Rehearsal attendance can be arranged either before or after submitting an application.**

Please contact alpOrchBoard@googlegroups.com in advance to coordinate a visit.

Application Process & Tentative Timeline

Applications will be reviewed on a rolling basis, with interviews conducted throughout the application period.

Key Dates

- **Application Deadline:** Until filled. **Interviews:** Rolling basis until early December 2026
- **Anticipated Selection Announcement:** By December 15, 2026
- **Expected Start:** Spring 2027 concert season, first rehearsal February 22, 2027

How to Apply

Interested candidates should email alpOrchBoard@googlegroups.com with the following:

- A résumé or summary of relevant conducting and musical experience.
- A brief statement describing their approach to musical leadership and working with and developing ensembles.

- *[Optional]* You may include relevant “portfolio” items, such as links to recordings of you conducting, etc., if you have them. You will not be negatively impacted if you do not have recordings.

Selected candidates will complete a panel interview. Finalists may be asked to participate in additional evaluation activities, potentially including an opportunity to work with the orchestra.

Dates and selection activities are tentative and subject to change.

Please email alpOrchBoard@googlegroups.com *to submit your application or to ask any questions about the role or application process.*
