

Rainier Symphony Chamber Orchestra

Adopted 8/9/04

The core of the Rainier Symphony organization is the all-volunteer full symphony orchestra. Over more than two decades, this family of musicians has remained committed to the enjoyment of music. Rehearsing every week with a consistent group of players, learning from each other, honing the sense of ensemble, and enjoying music are what are important.

Periodically RS is approached for musical participation in outside events. This could be a choir needing a full orchestra, a church looking for a string orchestra, or a local event seeking small group, etc. With our current structure, there are several difficulties with accepting these opportunities. Many orchestra members have expressed that they do not have the time for additional rehearsals and performances in addition to the busy RS schedule. Most of these opportunities do not require the full orchestra. Time and effort must be spent to coordinate them.

There are benefits, however, to accepting some of these opportunities. Musicians who have the time and desire can participate in new activities. It could provide new sources of revenue. We can build bridges into the community, and increase visibility for the entire organization.

As long as these outside opportunities are not in conflict with the full symphony orchestra (resources, schedule, etc), this can be a positive outreach effort for RS, and a positive experience for the orchestra members. Therefore the purpose is to create a framework in which to respond to requests for performances, not to create another standing ensemble within the Rainier Symphony organization.

It is proposed that:

1. When an outside organization approaches RS about another musical opportunity, this is referred to the Music Director for consideration.
2. The MD will evaluate it to ensure that:
 - a. There are no scheduling conflicts with the RS rehearsal or performance schedule.
 - b. It would be a positive experience for RS musicians.
 - c. It would reflect well on the RS organization as a whole. For example would be a quality performance, working with another reputable local group.
 - d. It would be financially self-sustaining. Note: If the MD feels there is a compelling reason RS should pursue an event even at a financial loss, for example to support a key community or educational outreach event, s/he may still propose the event to the Board for consideration.
 - e. The MD may ask Board members and others for input on the proposed opportunity.
3. If the MD feels that the event should be considered, s/he will submit a written proposal to the Board of Trustees for approval.
4. If the event is approved by the Board, the orchestra would be called the “Rainier Symphony Chamber Orchestra” or referred to as “musicians from the Rainier Symphony.” We will use this language to make the distinction that this is a different group. Any data provided to the sponsor for inclusion in their promotional materials {program, postcards, etc} should reflect this name.

5. These events will generally not be advertised through the usual RS channels: RS concert program, postcard, website, etc.
6. The MD will work out the details of the event:
 - a. Set the rehearsal and performance dates, times, locations, dress code.
 - b. Select or approve the repertoire.
 - c. Select the musicians:
 1. The MD will audition interested RS members to create a pool of qualified musicians. Since principal roles require a higher level of playing ability, separate principal and section player pools will be created. Note: Many of these events will require a polished performance in only 1 or 2 rehearsals, so not every RS member may be qualified for some of these events.
 2. For each event, the MD will select musicians based on instrumentation required, musical qualification, and availability. The MD will rotate through the pool of qualified players when offering opportunities. If offered, the musician is free to accept or decline the opportunity, as these are voluntary events.
 3. Musicians from RS will be selected first, and only then will non-RS members be offered opportunities to play as the instrumentation requires.
 - d. Determine any pay the musicians might receive. Due to the extra time commitment involved, in some cases musicians may be compensated for their time and/or mileage. In other cases no compensation may be available.
 - e. Determine the rehearsal and/or performance conductor. This may be the RS MD, the RS Assistant Conductor, a conductor from the other group with which we are collaborating, or another person.
 - f. Coordinate all customary musical details including soloists, music rental/purchase, instruments (percussion, piano, etc), sound reinforcement, etc. Music and equipment belonging to RS can be used for this special event, assuming there are no conflicts with the full Symphony's needs. Any new music purchased would become part of the RS music library.
 - g. Determine income and any other expenses. Conductor's fee, piano tuning, equipment rental, transport, etc.
 - h. Determine any impacts to other RS volunteers or staff such as the Orchestra Manager, Business Manager, Librarian, etc. If they are substantially impacted in addition to their existing duties, additional compensation may be appropriate or an additional resource may be needed.
 - i. Provide relevant information to the Treasurer, Orchestra Manager, Business Manager, or other impacted people.
 - j. At the conclusion of the event, report back to the Board on how it went.
7. A written contract, between RS and the requesting/sponsoring group, will be developed and signed.
8. The Treasurer will document income and expenses from these special events separately from other RS income/expense.
9. The Board may change or cancel this program at any time through its standard voting process.