

Orchestras Canada Trustee Responsibilities

The Board of Directors of Orchestras Canada is an elected body with responsibility to our members, our funders, members of the public and the orchestral art form. The job of the Board of Directors is to establish and assist in the implementation of policies that enable the achievement of Orchestras Canada's mission – *to be the united national voice of the Canadian orchestral community, furthering and enriching the work of Canadian orchestras through programs and services in both official languages.*

Meeting Attendance and Committee Participation

The Board of Directors meets two times annually, with additional teleconferences scheduled as required. Board members are expected to attend as many meetings as possible, and to participate actively on committees and task forces on which they are asked to serve.

Upholding the Association's Bylaws

Board members are expected to familiarize themselves with Orchestras Canada's bylaws, and to live within them. Article 5.04 of the Orchestras Canada/Orchestres Canada General Management Bylaw No. 3 spells out board members' responsibilities, including the board's responsibility for hiring and assessing key staff, maintaining confidentiality, and respecting such conflict of interest guidelines as may be established from time to time.

Financial Responsibilities

Board members are responsible for the fiscal health of Orchestras Canada. It is expected that Orchestras Canada shall be a significant beneficiary of each member's charitable giving, and that each member will contribute an annual gift according to his or her personal ability. Additionally, board members are expected to utilize their individual, corporate and foundation contacts to help in the solicitation of funds for operating expenses, special projects and OC's endowment fund, with the aid of staff and other board members.

Attendance at Orchestras Canada events

In order to familiarize themselves with the range of Orchestras Canada's activities, Board members are urged to attend as many of Orchestras Canada's events (workshops, seminars, conferences, etcetera) as possible. Board members are encouraged to invite others to attend as well.

Advocacy and Community Relations

It is the Board member's role to be a representative and an advocate of Orchestras Canada, and to assist in expanding the good reputation of the organization. Additionally, board members may be asked to use their alliances within the orchestral, government, corporate or foundation sectors to assist Orchestras Canada on specific issues.

Addressing Strategic Issues of Critical Importance to Orchestras and to Orchestras Canada

Board members bring their insight, expertise, abilities and energy to the tasks of identifying and solving truly important issues affecting the viability and health of Orchestras Canada and

Canadian orchestras. While exercising due diligence in all matters, we try not to get overcommitted with the routine, but instead to focus on issues that really matter.

In summary, a member of the Orchestras Canada board of directors has fiduciary responsibilities and serves as special advisor, support and ambassador. With a small core staff, Board members work as part of a team to ensure the well-being of the organization and the organizations it supports. In return, Board members can expect to learn about the issues facing the music world today, and to utilize their expertise to help Orchestras Canada serve its membership across Canada.