

Solicitation of Musicians/Artists for Events

Musicians and Artists are often procured for enhancement of events. They may be hired hourly, “per service,” according to union rules, for mutual profits, or as volunteers. Here are some considerations when hiring Musicians or Artists.

Volunteer Artists

Artists/Musicians may be hired on a volunteer basis. Often, non-professional artists or members of the Symphony Family will play for a luncheon or event for no fee. This is the most preferable route to take particularly for luncheons or for fundraisers. Keep in mind that hiring non-professionals may be profitable, but also could affect the overall “quality” of the event. If a non-professional artist is hired, it is preferred that they are known by members as quality performers. “Gratuities” are often welcomed by volunteer musicians.

Visual Artists

A Visual Artist can be hired in a volunteer display for an event such as a Showcase House event. Artwork can be procured for Auction as a donation. The Society has shared in the profit on a percentage basis if the artist sells artwork. Pricing arrangements or ranges may need to be written in a contract with the artist. The handling of artwork is a concept that needs to be agreed upon in writing with the artist, particularly if very valuable. Since the pricing of artwork is variable, a good understanding about how the artwork is to be used, sold, displayed, returned or marketed needs to be carefully considered on an individual basis.

Musicians for Hire

Musicians hired for pay can be paid on an hourly basis. The hourly rate needs to reflect the quality or “going rate” for that instrument and artist. For example, a Bass, Cello or Keyboard soloist may have a rate, plus extra transportation costs. An artist may have an agent that arranges all the “gigs.” A vocal or violin soloist may have the added expense of an accompanist. The Musicians of an Orchestra frequently are paid according to “union rules,” which need to be checked before a contract is rendered. In the case of the Symphony’s Orchestra members, please contact the **Orchestra Manager**. The pay usually reflects the quality of performance for that particular artist. Some piano, vocal or

string soloists may command \$2,000-\$6,000+ depending on their training, popularity and virtuosity. Musicians of this caliber usually work through an agent. The Symphony Management can help with these special cases. Many musicians require “practice rooms” or warm-up areas before their performances. Venues need to be scouted for microphones, amplification, staging and lighting systems to suit the performer. “Gratuities” may be given to musicians for hire on a more personal basis, particularly for a fundraising event. Meals are often “comped” if the musician is playing at a catered event.

Youth Orchestra for Hire

The Symphony’s Youth Orchestra has the full Orchestra and various sub-groups such as the String Ensemble for hire on a limited basis. These groups must be scheduled through the Symphony’s **Youth Orchestra Manager** – preferably with considerable advance time in scheduling. They will play for free, but often a donation is helpful, or the offer of a meal if appropriate for the event.

Symphony Ensembles

The Symphony has String, Percussion and Horn Ensembles that can play at events on a “per service” basis. Please call the **Orchestra Manager** or the **Education Director** for more information.

Winners of the Scholarship Competitions are also available on a limited basis. For more information on these young artists, call the **Chairman of the Society’s Scholarship Committee.**

Pianos are difficult to procure. Any event requiring a piano should be arranged at a location with a good piano. Only a few country clubs (The Forest) in the area have high quality pianos. Most Churches have good pianos or organs, but may not be suitable for many fundraisers. Pianos have been rented from Jay and Kay’s and Euro Piano in Naples, but require at least \$600-\$800 in rental fee. Pianos must be tuned before a performance. Contact the Symphony Office for the names of good piano tuners.

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