Ithaca Community Orchestra

Position Description: Assistant Conductor

July 13, 2026

About the Ithaca Community Orchestra

Founded in 2001 by a group of local musicians who wanted to play classical music together and perform in the community, the Ithaca Community Orchestra (ICO) is a group of roughly 80 talented amateur musicians who enjoy playing classical music together and enriching the community with orchestral concerts. The orchestra season runs from September through early May. It rehearses on Wednesday evenings from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. at the First Congregational Church in Cayuga Heights. Each season the ICO presents two major concerts focused on the classical orchestral repertoire, and also performs at senior residential communities, local festivals, and other community events. The ICO is an equal-opportunity organization and welcomes applicants of all backgrounds.

Position and Term

The ICO seeks an Assistant Conductor to serve as a committed member of the artistic leadership team, working closely with and reporting to the Music Director. The role could serve as an apprenticeship for an emerging conductor, but the ICO equally welcomes applications from experienced conductors seeking to contribute their skills to the orchestra.

Term: July 1, 2026 through June 30, 2027, with annual renewal by mutual agreement of both parties. A performance review will take place after the first year.

Key Responsibilities

Rehearsal and performance support

- Attend all rehearsals throughout the season.
- Cover (understudy) most rehearsals and all concerts, being fully prepared to conduct in the event of an emergency or on short notice.
- Lead rehearsals (within reason) and sectional rehearsals as assigned by the Music Director.

Sectional and instrumental support

- Provide instrumental technique insight to help realize the orchestra's interpretive goals.
- Lead sectionals as scheduled.
- Advise on the bowing of string parts.

Artistic leadership

- Serve as an organized, perceptive musician who absorbs and supports the nuance of the Music Director's interpretation.
- Demonstrate a thorough understanding of and commitment to the ICO's mission.

- Liaise with guest artists and assist the music director with securing substitute musicians as needed.
- Collaborate as part of a shared artistic leadership team.

Conducting opportunities

The Music Director will make their best effort to ensure the Assistant Conductor has at least one conducting performance opportunity each season; podium assignments are made in light of programming needs.

Qualifications

Required

- Excellent musicianship and strong organizational skills.
- A degree in music or commensurate musical/conducting training.
- Clear, well-organized conducting technique, with the ability to convey musical ideas accessibly and at a pace appropriate to the ensemble.
- Demonstrated reliability
- Ability to work well with the Music Director, orchestra members, and Board.
- Desire for performance excellence within the bounds of an amateur community organization
- Resides in the greater Ithaca metropolitan area.

Preferred

- Three years of experience assisting or directing instrumental ensembles.
- Skills in an instrument that complement the Music Director's specialty.
- Background in string pedagogy.
- In the case of a student candidate, support of one's faculty advisor is critical.
- Ability to participate as a supplemental section player.

Compensation

$3,000 per season

Application

Interested applicants, please forward a cover letter and resume to

info@ithacacommunityorchestra.org