

# SAN DIEGO SYMPHONY

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## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

### **How many musicians are there in the San Diego Symphony?**

There are 82 full-time, contracted San Diego Symphony musicians. However, depending on the particular piece of music being performed, you may see more musicians on stage. These musicians are also auditioned and hired on a case-by-case basis. You may also see fewer musicians if the particular piece of music calls for less than the full complement.

### **How are the musicians selected?**

Musicians are selected through a rigorous audition process which is comprised of an orchestra committee and the music director. Open positions are rare. When an audition is held, it is common to have 100-150 musicians competing for the open position.

### **Where have the musicians received their training?**

Many San Diego Symphony musicians come from all over the United States, and some even from different countries in the world. Many of our musicians have studied at the top universities and music schools in the United States including The Juilliard School, Eastman School of Music and Curtis Institute of Music.

### **Are the musicians able to pursue other interests?**

In addition to rehearsals and performances, all of our musicians are required to perform a number of educational outreach services per year. In addition, many of our musicians serve as faculty members at local colleges and universities including University of California San Diego, San Diego State University and Point Loma Nazarene College. A number of musicians also have their own students and teach private lessons.

In addition, several musicians have outside musical endeavors such as Art of Elán, Strings by the Sea, Luscious Noise and Camera Lucida and perform at other San Diego concert venues.

### **Where else do San Diego Symphony musicians perform?**

San Diego Symphony serves as the pit orchestra for all San Diego Opera productions throughout its season at the Civic Theatre. San Diego Symphony musicians also appear with La Jolla Music Society/SummerFest and Mainly Mozart performing at the Balboa Theatre and Conrad Prebys Music Center at UCSD.

### **What is the age range of the musicians?**

The age of the musicians ranges from mid-20s to late-70s.

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### **How many different types of concerts does the San Diego Symphony perform?**

San Diego Symphony performs from October through May, downtown at Copley Symphony Hall at Jacobs Music Center and offers the following music series: Jacobs Masterworks, City Lights, Chamber Music Series, Fox Film Series and Family Concerts. From late June through early September, the San Diego Symphony performs the Bayside Summer Nights at its outdoor venue on the waterfront downtown, Embarcadero Marina Park South. The Symphony performs more than 100 concerts a year.

### **Who is the San Diego Symphony's music director?**

Rafael Payare is the Symphony's Music Director Designate and will begin the role of music director on July 1, 2019. Payare will debut at the San Diego podium in his new role January 2019, when he kicks off the fourth annual San Diego Symphony January festival. As the San Diego Symphony's music director, Payare will succeed Maestro Jahja Ling, whose tenure began in 2004-05 and culminated in the 2016-17 season. Beginning in the 2019-20 season, Payare will conduct the San Diego Symphony for 10 weeks each season including performances in the Bayside Summer Nights season.

### **Who is the associate conductor?**

The San Diego Symphony's Associate Conductor is Sameer Patel, who conducts Family Festival concerts, Young People's Concerts and others.

### **Does the San Diego Symphony have a board of directors?**

Yes, the Symphony currently has 44 members on its board of directors, which is comprised of various community and business leaders. These include members of San Diego's legal and financial community along with small business owners, principals from large business, local entrepreneurs and philanthropic supporters.

### **How many people does the San Diego Symphony employ?**

In addition to the 82 full-time musicians, there are 38 members of the administrative staff, which includes administration, artistic, development, education, facilities, finance, human resources, information systems, marketing and production. The cost of putting on a concert also includes salaries and fees for the music director, guest artists, stage crew, house management and maintenance.

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### **Where does the San Diego Symphony perform?**

San Diego Symphony performs at Copley Symphony Hall at the Jacobs Music Center in downtown San Diego. Symphony Hall is located at Seventh Avenue and B Street within the Symphony Towers office complex. San Diego Symphony also performs its Bayside Summer Nights at its outdoor venue on San Diego's waterfront at Embarcadero Marina Park South, located behind the San Diego Convention Center, adjacent to the Marriott Hotel Marina.

### **How many seats does Symphony Hall have?**

The Hall has 2,231 seats including handicapped seating both on the main floor and upper level. Seating is divided into various section including orchestra, Grand Tier, mezzanine and balcony. The Hall also includes a patron elevator to reach the upper lobby.

### **Has Copley Symphony Hall always been the home of the San Diego Symphony?**

No, Symphony Hall was built in 1929 as a movie palace and was known as the Fox Theatre, a well known San Diego landmark. In its early days, "The Fox" also featured added stage shows, and then it eventually became a venue for touring Broadway shows until 1984. Subsequently, the Fox Theatre was renamed Copley Symphony Hall as a result of a donation by the late Helen Copley, whose family owned the morning newspaper, The San Diego Union and the Evening Tribune, now The San Diego Union-Tribune.

### **Since the Hall was built as a movie palace, how has it been adapted into a concert hall?**

Since 1984-85 when the Fox Theatre became Copley Symphony Hall through 1999, the venue has been continually refurbished. This includes installing a shell to surround the orchestra, stage risers, an adjustable ceiling and a stage floor made of Brazilian cherry wood, all adding to the quality of the sound. Most recently in 2008-09, a state-of-the-art digital sound and lighting system was installed further enhancing the experience of attending a symphony concert. All of these improvements were installed by the acoustical experts, Akustiks. In addition, these improvements add to the Hall's marketability as a rental venue.

### **Does the San Diego Symphony own Copley Symphony Hall?**

In the mid-1990s, the Symphony's ownership of Copley Symphony Hall was in jeopardy. Mr. Lawrence B. (Larry) Robinson stepped forward to acquire and preserve the Hall for the Symphony's future. In early 2010, Mr. Robinson transferred the title and deed to the San Diego Symphony, which now owns the hall outright.

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### **Have there been any other improvements made to the Hall?**

Two years ago, longtime San Diegans and Symphony supporters, the Grosvenor Family, made a significant donation to renovate the antiquated musicians' lounge, which is located directly under the stage. The result is the state-of-the-art Grosvenor Family Musicians Center, which includes a new musicians' lounge, dressing rooms, locker rooms and soundproof practice rooms where musicians can rehearse privately. Joan and Irwin Jacobs are responsible for the Jacobs Administrative Center, situated above Symphony Hall and houses the Symphony's administrative offices. The Jacobs' are also responsible for the Hall's balcony handrails and upper and lower lobby refurbishments. Copley Symphony Hall is ADA-compliant.

### **Before Copley Symphony Hall, where did the San Diego Symphony perform?**

The Symphony performed in a variety of venues including the Grand Ballroom of the US Grant Hotel where the Symphony gave its very first performance on December 6, 1910. Other venues have included the Spreckels Theatre, San Diego High School Russ Auditorium, Hoover High School Auditorium, Ford Bowl in Balboa Park and the Civic Theatre. Summer Pops venues include San Diego State University Amphitheatre, Hospitality Point at Mission Bay, Navy Pier and the current, Embarcadero Marina Park South.

### **When did the San Diego Symphony receive the gift from Joan and Irwin Jacobs?**

The gift was given in January 2002.

### **What was the amount of the gift and how is it allocated?**

The amount of the gift was \$120 million; however, the San Diego Symphony did not receive this amount in its entirety when the gift was given. The gift is allocated as follows:

- 1.) The first \$50 million is given to the Symphony's endowment fund — not the operating fund — in increments of \$5 million each year for 10 years.
- 2.) The next \$50 million of the gift is a bequest that will be received into the endowment fund after the Jacobs' pass away.
- 3.) The last \$20 million is given to the Symphony's operating fund in increments of \$2 million each year for 10 years, commencing in 2003.

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### **Does the Symphony have access to the endowment fund for its annual operating fund?**

The San Diego Symphony Foundation manages the endowment for the San Diego Symphony. In this capacity, the Foundation's board of directors determines the amount of financial support that the endowment can provide to the Symphony annually. The yearly disbursement from the endowment funds is based upon the performance of the portfolio's investments.

### **How much are the ticket prices to attend a Symphony concert?**

The Symphony offers a variety of ticket prices to serve a wide range of audiences. For our Young People's Concerts and student rush tickets, the prices are \$5 and \$10, respectively. Family Festivals range from \$10-25. Bayside Summer Nights and Winter seasons typically range in price from \$20-\$96.

### **Do ticket prices cover the cost of the Symphony's expenses?**

No, they do not. The Symphony must rely on both tickets sales and donated income from individuals, corporations, government entities and foundations and for-profit companies in order to operate. Ticket prices and other operating revenue only cover approximately \$0.38 on the dollar while \$0.62 on the dollar must be received in donations. Therefore, it is essential that the Symphony reach out to the community and continue its ongoing annual fundraising campaigns that include both individual and corporate support.

### **How much is the base annual salary of a musician?**

The base or starting annual salary of a musician in 2018 is approximately \$70,000. Many musicians earn more than that amount based on their experience, length of service and position in their respective sections, be it principal or section player.

### **What is the San Diego Symphony's annual budget?**

The current budget is approximately \$26 million placing the San Diego Symphony in the Group I category along with the top orchestras in the country as ranked by the League of American Orchestras.