**La Crosse Symphony Fellowship for Underrepresented Musicians**

The La Crosse Symphony Orchestra (LSO) is offering a one-year with an opportunity for a one-year Fellowship program for promising violinists and violists who are thirty-eight years old or younger pursuing an orchestral career. The LSO strongly encourages applicants from diverse backgrounds including but not limited to, diverse racial, ethnic, socio-economic, and geographic backgrounds that are traditionally under-represented in orchestras and whose participation will strengthen the LSO’s efforts to foster greater diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI). Fellows will be paid at the principal rate ($75) to rehearse and perform with the orchestra. In addition, they will receive other career development benefits including mentoring and audition preparation, as well as Education/Community Engagement training with supervised experiences.

**Fellowship Benefits:**

* Fellows will be offered 26 services to rehearse and play with the full Orchestra on the six-season concerts and the Symphony for Youth concert.
* Fellows will gain valuable Education and Community Engagement opportunities by collaborating with area organizations during the 6 concert weeks. The Fellow will be compensated a service fee for each engagement with a minimum of 4 engagements:
  + Meet with the High School Orchestras of the La Crosse School District each concert week.
  + Gundersen Hospital engagement opportunities for music healing
  + Boys and Girls Club free violin lessons
  + Guest Artist Society event participation
* Fellows will be paid the LSO’s principal rate ($80) per service, travel costs up to $800 reimbursed for air fare/ driving costs / rental car fees, hotel stay or $69 per day for self-planned accommodations, and a per diem of $59 per day per the IRS Standard Rates for 2025. In addition, there will be a stipend of $100 per concert week such that the LSO Fellow will make at least $1000 per week they participate.
* Fellows will receive career development services throughout the program including:
  + Having a mentor from the LSO
  + Interview training and practice with an LSO member
  + Guidance from the LSO maestro

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| **Eligibility Requirements:**   * Enrollment in or graduation from a Graduate music program * Thirty-eight years of age or younger as of January 1, 2025   **Ideal Candidate Attributes:**   * Desire to pursuing an orchestral career * Passionate about Education and Community Engagement * Experience teaching kids |  | **Concert Week Schedule Outline:**  Items to be scheduled during each concert week:   * To be scheduled in tandem with the Project Manager:   + Evening rehearsals – 7-10 pm on rehearsal days   + Daytime School visits   + Daytime Hospital performances   + Afternoon Boys and Girls Club violin lesson participation -Thursday from 3:30 to 4:30 * LSO regularly scheduled rehearsals/concerts:   + 26 services will be offered, 16 must be accepted.   **Service dates for 2025-26:**  Oct. 14,16, 17, 18 / Nov. 11, 13 ,14 ,15 Dec. 16, 18, 19, 20 / Mar. 10, 12, 13, 14  Apr. 7, 9, 10, 11 / Apr. 28, 30 May 1, 2   * + Evening rehearsals/concerts (7 pm – 10 pm)   + Weekend concerts and 1 morning Youth Concert (Mar. 17, 18) |

**Application:**

1. **Resume**
2. **Up to 3 YouTube links of a SOLO performance**

**Application Process:**

1. Applications are **due by Wednesday, April 9, 2025 at 11:59pm**.
2. Email your resume and YouTube performance links with the subject labeled as: **LSO Fellowship Application Your First and Last Name** to [admin@lacrossesymphony.org.](mailto:admin@lacrossesymphony.org.%20?subject=LSO%20Fellowship%20Application)
3. A committee will meet and decide which candidates will move on to the second round. Applicants will be notified no later than Wednesday, April 16, 2025.
4. The second round includes a live audition with the audition committee and an interview via Zoom held on Saturday, May 03, 2025.

**Audition Committee:**

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|  | **Alexander Platt**  Conductor of the La Crosse  Symphony Orchestra |  | **Wes Luke**  Concertmaster of the La Crosse Symphony Orchestra  *Addition Role: Fellow Audition Coach* |
|  | **Michelle Elliott**  Associate Concertmaster of the  La Crosse Symphony Orchestra  *Additional Role: Fellow Liaison* |  | **Sarah Manasreh-Decker**  Engaged Symphony Patron with a Music Education and Performance Degree |
|  | **Aaron Schwartz**  Assistant Concertmaster of the  La Crosse Symphony Orchestra  *Additional Role: Fellow Mentor* |