

CALIFORNIA SYMPHONY

STRING TEACHING ARTIST – SOUND MINDS

California Symphony is currently seeking a strings teacher (beginning and intermediate violin and cello) for the after-school Sound Minds program which operates at Downer Elementary School in San Pablo. This position is the second building block of a 5-level program. The teaching artist will be responsible for 6-8 hours per week on Mondays and Wednesdays, teaching group violin and cello classes consisting of approximately 10-15 students while collaborating with the full team of 4 teaching artists and school staff. The successful candidate will have exceptional skills working with children while creating an environment that is fun yet disciplined. The position will be able to support the objectives of Sound Minds and help facilitate community and family involvement.

A proud member of El Sistema USA, Sound Minds is the flagship music education program of California Symphony and based on the El Sistema model developed in Venezuela by Dr. Antonio Abreau. It is one of only two El Sistema nucleo in the Bay Area affiliated with a professional symphony orchestra. Sound Minds will serve grades 2-6 in the San Pablo community at Downer Elementary School. Students receive musicianship, strings instruction, and beginning orchestra in a nurturing environment, with the goal to empower them to develop their potential, pursue their education, and strengthen their communities.

Sound Minds has been widely praised by local and national media outlets including NPR, KQED's California Report, KGO, KCBS, KQED, Contra Costa Times, and San Francisco Chronicle.

Responsibilities include:

- Teach beginning and intermediate string classes consisting of approximately 10 to 15 students and assist with ensemble rehearsals
- Prepare students for public performances, when applicable, to demonstrate the students' progress in Sound Minds
- Create an effective learning experience for students
- Attend teacher meetings and professional development opportunities
- Follow a shared curriculum and syllabus, pedagogy and culture inspired by the ideals of El Sistema
- Maintain collaborative communication on student progress with other Sound Minds teaching artists, Program Coordinator and Symphony staff, parents, and school liaisons
- Maintain the integrity of the ideals and pedagogy of Sound Minds as an El Sistema inspired program

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Qualifications:

- Interest and ability to be a motivational mentor and role model for students, parents and peers as an artist, teacher and citizen
- Strong commitment to El Sistema's philosophy of social change through music and the objectives of Sound Minds
- Demonstrated musicianship and artistry as a teacher and performer
- Strong knowledge of early string repertoire, curriculum and pedagogy
- Four-year undergraduate degree or equivalent experience. A teaching credential, or work towards a graduate teaching degree is a plus
- Strong knowledge of standard music pedagogy (Suzuki, Kodály, Orff, Solfège etc.) Certification a plus
- Experience working with children from diverse ethnic and economic backgrounds, particularly in a group setting; experience working in underserved communities
- Strong interpersonal and communication skills and the ability to work effectively with a wide range of constituencies in a diverse community
- Bilingual in English and Spanish a plus
- Must pass a Background Check, Fingerprinting, and submit a negative TB test

Commitment:

- Part-Time, hourly position
- Tentatively mid-September through December 2022
- Approximately 6-8 hours per week, Mondays and Wednesdays after school
- Teaching location is performed at Downer Elementary School

Compensation:

- Competitive hourly rate
- Professional development opportunities in collaboration with the program director

To Apply:

- Submit a current resume, cover letter indicating your interest and familiarity with the El Sistema model, and at least one work sample to jobs@californiasymphony.org with "Sound Minds" in the header
- Open until Filled

About the California Symphony

The California Symphony, now in its seventh season under the leadership of Music Director Donato Cabrera, is distinguished by its vibrant concert programs that combine classics alongside American repertoire and works by living composers, and for bringing music to people in new and unconventional settings. The orchestra includes musicians who perform with the San Francisco Symphony, San Francisco Opera, San Francisco Ballet, and others, and is based in Walnut Creek at the Leshner Center for the Arts with additional recent performances around the region in Napa Valley, Concord, Oakland, and Berkeley.

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Over the last four years, the California Symphony's audience has nearly doubled and the donor base has increased by +180%.

Outside of the concert hall, the Symphony actively supports music education as a driver for social change through its El Sistema-inspired Sound Minds program at Downer Elementary School in San Pablo, CA, which brings intensive music instruction and academic enrichment to schoolchildren in an area where 94% of students qualify for the federal free or reduced price lunch program, at no cost to the students who participate. The Orchestra also hosts the highly competitive Young American Composer-in-Residence program and its current composer, Viet Cuong. California Symphony has launched the careers of some of today's most well-known artists, including violinist Anne Akiko Meyers, cellists Alisa Weilerstein and Joshua Roman, pianist Kirill Gerstein and composers such as Mason Bates, Christopher Theofanidis, and Kevin Puts.

Commitment to Diversity

In 2017, the California Symphony became the first orchestra with a public statement of a commitment to diversity. The statement underscores our commitment, on stage and off in order to make our organization as robust as possible. To read more about our commitment to Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion read our full statement [here](#).

The mission of the California Symphony is to enhance the lives of those it serves in Contra Costa County and the extended San Francisco Bay Area by performing the full range of orchestral repertoire of the highest quality with special attention to the work of American composers, presenting talented young performers in their first professional concert appearances, featuring performances by world class artists, and providing education outreach programs for the children and adults of our community.

Founded in 1986 under founding Music Director Barry Jekowsky, our vision is to become a 21st-century orchestra, making classical music relevant to those we serve, bringing in new audiences along the way, and ultimately more fully living up to our name across the state of California. For more information, please visit <https://www.californiasymphony.org/>

An Equal Opportunity Employer:

It is the policy of the California Symphony to provide all persons with equal employment opportunities without regard to race, color, sex, religion, national origin, veteran status, marital status or any characteristic protected by federal, state, and local law. Candidates of ALAANA (African, Latinx, Asian, Arab, and Native American) communities are encouraged to apply.