



### **Allentown Symphony Association**

It is the Mission of the Allentown Symphony Association to *“support a first-class symphony orchestra, to maintain an historic performance hall, and to offer to the community quality programs of artistic and educational value.”* In fulfilling its Mission, the Allentown Symphony Association *“embraces the diverse cultures it serves and is committed to an inclusive and equitable environment where every individual is respected and valued.”*

### **Miller Symphony Hall**

Allentown Symphony is one of a handful of American orchestras to own its own acoustically superb historic concert hall. Miller Symphony Hall, built in 1899, seats 1,100 people and is located in downtown Allentown.

### **Allentown Symphony Orchestra**

Founded in 1951, the Allentown Symphony is a professional union per-service orchestra (League of American Orchestras - Group 3) performing Classics, Pops, and Family concerts at Miller Symphony Hall and throughout the Lehigh Valley. Under the leadership of Music Director and Conductor, Diane Wittry, the ASO has expanded its concert season and received numerous artistic awards and grants. Exciting world-class artists that have performed with the ASO include Midori, Emanuel Ax, Richard Stoltzman, Garrick Ohlsson, Angela Meade, and Peter Serkin, as well as jazz trumpeter Byron Stripling, saxophonist Branford Marsalis. The orchestra’s musicians include players from the major urban centers of New York, Philadelphia, and Baltimore-D.C. areas. Pending an audition, the Musician-in-Residence will perform in the 2nd Violin Section of the Allentown Symphony. There are up to 52 orchestra services that the Musician-in-Residence could be contracted for. The Musician-in-Residence must be a member of Local 45 to perform with the Allentown Symphony.

### **Allentown Symphony Association Community Engagement**

The ASA is passionate about music education and community engagement and has a thriving El Sistema Lehigh Valley program for underserved youth and numerous other community engagement activities.

#### **EL SISTEMA LEHIGH VALLEY**

Established in 2011 in partnership with the Allentown School District, El Sistema Lehigh Valley is an intensive after-school music education program for children in grades K-12 run by the Allentown Symphony Association. The Allentown Symphony believes music education is vital to child development and every student should have access to high-quality music education, regardless of means. The program provides instruments, orchestral and choral ensemble experiences, academic tutoring, mentorship and leadership opportunities, and a snack to children every day after-school at no financial cost to participating families. Students practice every day after school for 2½ hours, immersing themselves into mental and physical training. ESLV engages around 130 students from over 20 schools annually.

## COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

The ASA presents a number of programs that engage the wider community such as The Youth & Family Concert, Orchestra Lab, Young Musician String Festival, National Schadt String Competition, Composer-in-Residence, the Schadt String Scholarships.

### **Description of Allentown and the Lehigh Valley**

Allentown is the third-largest city in the state of Pennsylvania, and the Lehigh Valley metropolitan area (comprised of Allentown, Bethlehem, Easton and the surrounding towns) has a population of about 1 million. The city of Allentown, PA is well located being 92 miles from New York City, and 64 miles to Philadelphia. The Allentown School District is the third-largest urban school system and serves a community with a poverty rate of 39%. Of the 16,686 students in the district: 89% are low-income, 70% are Hispanic/Latino, 15% are Black/African American, 15% are English language learners, and 100% receive Free/Reduced Lunch. The Lehigh Valley is known for arts and culture with 7 Colleges and Universities located within 45 minutes of Allentown that feature active performing arts series. ArtsQuest, MusikFest, the Pennsylvania Shakespeare Festival, the Bach Choir of Bethlehem, the Allentown Art Museum, and the Baum School of Art are just a few of the cultural entities that bring thousands to the region each year.