

The Chicago Sinfonietta

Project Inclusion: Musicians of Color Mentoring Program Introduction, Eligibility, and Commitments

Introduction:

The Chicago Sinfonietta, the DePaul School of Music, and the Chicago College of the Performing Arts at Roosevelt University, and the Northwestern School of Music are proud to offer an opportunity for young orchestral musicians of color. "Project Inclusion" has been developed to provide a one to two year Fellowship with the Chicago Sinfonietta that includes rehearsing/performing with the orchestra for selected concerts during its nine-concert season, one-on-one mentoring with a senior member of the ensemble, additional performance opportunities, and assistance in getting placement with other orchestras. Fellows will receive full union fees for each service performed during their fellowship with the exceptions noted below.

The Chicago Sinfonietta is also considering forming 1-2 small (4-6 members) ensembles that would perform throughout the year at public events. Project Inclusion applicants will also be considered for these positions.

Eligibility:

All applicants must meet the following eligibility requirements:

1. Be between the ages of 18-26 during the Fellowship.
2. Be a person of color.
3. Have significant experience in orchestral performance at the high school, college level, post secondary, or conservatory level and must possess ability to function in professional atmosphere.
4. Express a sincere interest in pursuing music as a career.
5. Completely fill out the enclosed application form and provide all requested materials.
6. Perform an audition.

Program Commitments:

All applicants are required to make the following commitments:

1. Be available to perform at selected (by the Music Director) subscription pairs and attend the related rehearsals.
2. Meet at least two - four times during the course of the Fellowship with a senior member of the Sinfonietta and attend a few related events, e.g. donor cultivation gatherings, press conference announcing the program, etc.
3. Perform at a minimum of three community service outreach programs per year for no fee.

Note: All program criteria is subject to adjustment as deemed necessary by the Music Director.

Chicago Sinfonietta mentors will:

1. Provide coaching on technique, and specifically work with the Fellow on specific challenges posed by the repertoire for the upcoming concert.

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2. Provide coaching on how to function in a professional setting and life inside the orchestra. This will include tips on proper conduct, how to dress, attitude, punctuality, orchestra protocol, etc.
3. Provide advice on audition preparation.
4. Provide advice on how to survive and thrive as a freelance musician including how to get work, make contacts, etc.
5. Conduct mock auditions in front of a committee comprised of the mentors, music director, and others in the field.

Program Deadlines and Timeline

1. Applications will be distributed to potential Fellows by September 1, 2009
2. Applications are due by October 1, 2009 and may be submitted electronically to Jim Hirsch at jhirsch@chicagosinfonietta.org, via fax to 312-236-5429, or via regular mail to:
Chicago Sinfonietta
70 East Lake Street, Suite 226
Chicago, IL 60601
3. Auditions will be scheduled between October 15 - November 1. Place and time TBD.
4. Fellows will be chosen by November 15, 2009.
5. The first concerts will take place January 16, 17 & 18, 2010 with rehearsals scheduled for the week before.

Chicago Sinfonietta Project Inclusion Committee

Chair - Maestro Paul Freeman, Founding Music Director

Vice Chair - Renee' Baker, Personnel Manager and First Chair Viola

Vice Chair - Jim Hirsch, Executive Director

Others TBD

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