

Principal Conductor/Music Director Wanted

The National Concert Band of America (NCBA), based in the Washington, DC area, seeks the services of a charismatic Principal Conductor and Music Director who can lead this talented volunteer group in performing music befitting the modern Concert Band. NCBA was founded in 1974 by veterans from each of the premier service bands with a heritage in the traditions of the U.S. military bands. Today, the band is made up of active-duty and veteran musicians, as well as music educators and high-level amateur players. While still paying homage to the history and traditions of the wind band, NCBA prioritizes moving the wind band art form forward by commissioning 10 new works since 2019 and regularly performing music by composers of all backgrounds.

Duties of the Music Director will include but are not limited to:

- Preparing the band for performances, conducting weekly rehearsals, and leading the band in concerts throughout the NCBA season (September through mid-July);
- Working with the Associate Conductor and the Music Committee of the band in planning programs, selecting music, and selecting guest artists and/or conductors;
- Attending auditions, if held, and working directly with the Board of Directors and other appropriate band personnel in recruiting and retaining the best-qualified musicians for the band;
- Affording reasonable opportunity for the Associate Conductor to maintain proficiency in conducting the band;
- Promoting the best interests of the band in public and civic activities, including public relations and fund-raising activities;
- Serving as an ex officio, non-voting member of the NCBA's Board of Directors and serving as Chairman of the Music Committee.
- Assisting the Music Committee and the band's librarian to manage the NCBA's extensive music library.

Skills and Background Needed:

- Experience in programming band concerts, with specific knowledge of the broad range of concert band repertoire, to include standards and pillars of the wind band repertoire through the newest pieces being written today.
- Leadership skills to effectively engage volunteer adult members in a positive environment during rehearsals and performances.
- Stage presence and skills to effectively engage audiences during performances.
- Ability to work with soloists.
- Innovative approach to musically challenge and encourage members musical growth, while packaging concerts in a way to grow audiences.
- Experience commissioning new music (independently or through consortium) is desirable, but not essential.

Additional Details and Requirements:

NCBA rehearses on Monday evenings and performs four concert cycles from September-May on Sunday afternoons in Northern Virginia. The band continues its rehearsals and performances through mid-summer (usually culminating on July 4th at George Washington's Mount Vernon) with performances at parks and other local venues.

The Board of Directors requires a minimum two-year commitment for these services. A stipend is provided in exchange for services, but likely not enough to warrant relocation by persons located outside the Washington, DC metro area.

How to Apply

Interested candidates should submit an application packet consisting of:

- A cover letter describing your experience and interest in this position.
- A resume or CV highlighting professional experience and educational background.
- A program from a concert you have programmed
- List of 3 references with contact information
- Links to videos demonstrating your conducting in both rehearsal and concert. Videos should be no more than 10 minutes in length and may be in the form of a link posted online (Dropbox, Google Drive, YouTube, etc.).

Applications will be reviewed when received through the July 15th deadline. Top qualified candidates will be invited to interview before the hiring committee and finalists may be invited to lead the band during the season.

Please submit application materials and/or any questions to:

nationalconcertband@gmail.com