SOUTH DAKOTA SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

POSITION: TRIBAL ENGAGEMENT CONSULTANT (independent contractor)

About the South Dakota Symphony Orchestra

The South Dakota Symphony Orchestra (SDSO), based in Sioux Falls, South Dakota, is a 100-year-old institution and the state’s premier performing arts organization with the Washington Pavilion as its home. The SDSO curates a diverse collection of orchestral offerings each season through classical and pops concerts, as well as chamber music, appealing to audiences from the very experienced to first timers. To reach as many people as possible, orchestra concerts are livestreamed free of charge, and a robust digital library includes virtual recitals, music education videos, and podcasts. Artistically, the SDSO is led by Music Director Delta David Gier, who has guided the orchestra to new heights and national recognition.

The SDSO is nationally recognized as a prime example for how an orchestra engages with its community. The 65-member orchestra includes nine full-time musicians who make up the Dakota String Quartet and the Dakota Wind Quintet. These two ensembles perform over 100 times annually in schools, hospitals, senior living communities, behavioral health, and community centers throughout the region.

The SDSO’s award-winning Lakota Music Project has been nationally recognized as a model of cultural understanding and is the flagship community engagement program of the SDSO. With the Lakota Music Project as a foundation, the SDSO has fostered additional programs to embrace classical music as a medium for shared understanding. The SDSO is an organization striving to live out the values of equity, belonging, diversity, and inclusion, and to empower its many constituents to contribute and foster its growth.

The SDSO supplements the appreciation for the arts in the community with a variety of education and engagement programs including the South Dakota Symphony Youth Orchestra, Young People’s Concerts, the Music Composition Academies, and music enrichment opportunities in the classroom and for children in need.

TRIBAL ENGAGEMENT CONSULTANT SCOPE OF WORK

The SDSO is now looking for a Tribal Engagement Consultant to be an advocate and liaison for the Lakota Music Project by building support with tribes and grow the impact of the Lakota Music Project across the state. As a promoter of the Lakota Music Project, the Tribal Engagement Consultant will actively connect the SDSO with tribal communities and build relationships between the organization and tribal leadership and community influencers.
This will be an exciting opportunity for someone who has an appreciation for the arts and bringing the Lakota Music Project to tribal communities. The ideal candidate has connections in at least one South Dakota reservation, has a strong knowledge of tribal cultures, is an excellent communicator both orally and in writing (including social media platforms), a self-starter, results-oriented, and is fulfilled by engaging with others.

KEY RESPONSIBILITIES
The Key Responsibilities for the position include but are not limited to the following:

LMP Performance and Engagement
Identify LMP performance opportunities in South Dakota’s reservations and other relevant communities within the state of South Dakota.
Collaborate with the SDSO team to develop, execute, and promote engagement programs connected with LMP Performances.
Attend and provide support as needed for Lakota Music Project performances.

LMP Advocacy and Communications
Cultivate trusted relationships within tribal communities and advocate for the Lakota Music Project by leveraging your experience, perspective, and network.
Serve as a the SDSO’s liaison to tribal communities.
Identify relevant media outlets in tribal communities for LMP promotion. Coordinate marketing efforts with tribal communities and SDSO team. Marketing to include but not be limited to social media, print advertising, and radio.

Work Plan Development
The Tribal Engagement Consultant will collaborate with the Music Director and Executive Director to develop a monthly work plan, set goals, and expectations.

QUALIFICATIONS
The ideal candidate for the position will match as many of the following qualifications as possible:

• Member of a Federally Recognized Tribe, preferably a Tribe that is located in the SDSO geographic footprint.
• Strong knowledge of American Indian reservation communities and American Indian urban populations located in the SDSO geographic footprint.
• Strong knowledge of American Indian music and culture.
• Passion for the arts and SDSO’s mission.
• Ability to build trust and gain results through collaboration and community partnership.
• Ability to work independently and cooperatively to fulfill scope of work.
• Strong interpersonal skill to build rapport and community relationships.
• Strong oral and written communication skills.
• State-wide travel required.

COMPENSATION
The Tribal Engagement Consultant is an independent contractor. Fee starts at $2,000/month. Travel to be reimbursed. Work to begin no later than September 2023.
APPLICATION PROCEDURE

Please submit a resume and thoughtful cover letter in word or pdf file format to: sdsymphony@sdsymphony.org

- The cover letter is an example of your written communication. Include why you are interested in the SDSO and this particular position. Address your cover letter to Jennifer Teisinger, Executive Director. Applications will be reviewed on a rolling basis. The SDSO’s community engagement work is intentional about building bridges through music, and we encourage people from all backgrounds and cultures to be a part of the work we do.

ABOUT THE LAKOTA MUSIC PROJECT

The Lakota Music Project (LMP) is a program of the South Dakota Symphony Orchestra (SDSO). LMP was started with the intent of addressing a history of intergenerational racial tension by building shared music performances to create a safe space for open dialogue between Native and non-Native Americans.

The Lakota Music Project embraces the following strategies to create each program:

- Provide positive, safe, open space for dialogue.
- Explore what our different cultures share.
- Embrace the value of peaceful collaboration.

The first LMP concerts were performed in 2009 and have been performed in six of South Dakota’s nine reservations. A Lakota Music Project event features combinations of South Dakota Symphony musicians, a Lakota drumming group called the Creekside Singers, and Dakota cedar flutist Bryan Akipa, each performing music of their heritages as well as unique repertoire commissioned for the musicians to play together.

Over 10,000 people have experienced a Lakota Music Project performance in 12 towns and 6 reservations across South Dakota from 2009-2021. To date, 27 Lakota Music Project concerts have been performed in Standing Rock Reservation, Rosebud Reservation, Pine Ridge Reservation, Sisseton Wahpeton Reservation, Flandreau Santee Sioux Reservation, Crazy Horse Memorial, Pierre, Sioux Falls, and community centers and schools throughout South Dakota. In October of 2019, the Lakota Music Project performed at the Smithsonian National Museum of the American Indian and the National Cathedral in Washington, D.C.