



Shelly Fuerte
Popular Programming Consultant
SSF Consulting

Shelly Fuerte has been working for the world's top orchestras for the past two decades with a focus in artistic operations. Her passion for popular programming became evident during her 11 year collaboration with Marvin Hamlisch, while holding posts with the orchestras in Pittsburgh and San Diego.

In 2009, she began consulting for orchestras on various popular programming needs. Clients have included the Chicago Symphony Orchestra, Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra, Milwaukee Symphony Orchestra, Minnesota Orchestra, Fort Wayne Philharmonic, New Mexico Symphony Orchestra, The Florida Orchestra, Grand Teton Music Festival, and the Jackson Hole Center for the Arts.

Shelly also enjoys working with artists and ensembles as a company and production manager. Traveling the world and visiting orchestras of varying sizes is truly a pleasure!



Andrew Kipe
Executive Director
Louisville Orchestra

Andrew Kipe was named Executive Director of the Louisville Orchestra in October 2013. His tenure in Louisville has focused on reengaging the orchestra with the community and rebuilding relationships with all stakeholders following the Orchestra's 2010 bankruptcy and subsequent labor dispute. Early successes have included large growth in ticket sales, including subscriptions as well as an upsurge in donations and ended FY2014 with a modest surplus. Expanding the orchestra's reach into the community is a key tenant of the plan for the orchestra's resurgence including the very popular Music Without Border's series that has been presented to sold out audiences.

Prior to his appointment in Louisville Kipe served as the General Manger for The Phoenix Symphony where he was responsible for all aspects of operations, education and artistic planning for the orchestra. As part of the executive leadership team in Phoenix, Mr. Kipe worked to successfully restructure the organization, reduce the orchestra's structural deficit, re-brand the organization and rebuild relationships with the musicians into a positive and productive partnership.

Previous appointment included four and a half years as the Executive Director of the Maryland Symphony Orchestra and seven years in Portland, Maine where he served as the General Manager of the Portland Symphony Orchestra for five years and two years in the position of Orchestra Manager.

Mr. Kipe has served as a grant review panelist for the Maryland State Arts Council (MSAC) and was appointed to their Advisory Board for Strategic Planning – Imagine Maryland. He also served on Maryland's arts lobbying organization, Maryland Citizens for the Arts, as a member of their *Emerging Advocates Board*.

Mr. Kipe has pursued graduate studies in Arts Administration at Drexel University and received his Bachelor of Arts Degree in voice from St. Mary's College of Maryland.



Tommy Phillips
Director of Artistic Planning,
San Diego Symphony

Mr. Phillips joined the staff of the San Diego Symphony Orchestra in 2008 after holding administrative positions for several organizations, including the San Francisco Symphony and University of California, Santa Barbara Department of Music. From 2012 to 2013, Phillips managed and oversaw the planning and execution of the SDSO's first international tour to China, which also included its debut appearance at Carnegie Hall. In 2014, Mr. Phillips acted as consultant to program the 2015 Live at Orchestra Hall concert series for the Minnesota Orchestra. In San Diego, Phillips oversees all planning for the SDSO's classical and popular series programs. A native of San Diego, California, Mr. Phillips remains active in his home community, where he runs the "San Diego Trombone Collective," an ensemble of professional trombonists and educators from San Diego County committed to help educate young trombonists in San

Diego through community wide trombone choirs, San Diego Trombone Day, and the establishment of a scholarship fund to help young trombonists pursue a college education. Mr. Phillips earned a Bachelor's degree in Music (trombone performance) from the University of California, Santa Barbara, and studied both trombone and arts administration at the University of Cincinnati, College-Conservatory of Music.



Heather Slater
Director of Artistic Planning
Calgary Philharmonic Orchestra

Heather Slater joined the management team of the Calgary Philharmonic Orchestra as Director of Artistic Planning in 2010, after serving as Associate Director of Artistic Administration at the Toronto Symphony Orchestra. Past career pursuits include Editor of Classical and Educational publications at Music Sales UK, Booking Manager for the European Territories for IMG Artists Vocal Division (UK), and Director of Touring and Operations for Tafelmusik Baroque Orchestra and Chorus. At the CPO, she collaborates with Music Director Roberto Minczuk on the programming and planning of concerts and future seasons; the Pops series and non-Classical Specials comprise on average 35 concerts over the course of the Orchestra's 40-week season. She holds a Master of Arts in Music Criticism, and Bachelor degrees in Music Education and Piano Performance.



Carl Topilow

**Music Director and Conductor
The Cleveland Pops Orchestra**

Carl Topilow is renowned worldwide for his versatility, whether he is holding a conductor's baton or his trademark red clarinet. He is a multi-talented virtuoso who is equally at home in classical and popular music both as conductor and instrumentalist. Carl's pops performances blend light classical, swing, jazz, Broadway, Dixieland, and Klezmer music, usually finding occasion to include a number on his array of brightly colored clarinets. His unique approach to pops programming includes extensive audience involvement and true showmanship.

Following his longtime dream of conducting his own pops orchestra, Carl founded the [Cleveland Pops Orchestra](#). The orchestra, currently in its 19th season, plays to large audiences in Severance Hall and in several other venues throughout Northeast Ohio. The Cleveland Pops Orchestra's diverse, innovative and electrifying programs have been critically acclaimed.

Topilow's wife Shirley is President and CEO of the Cleveland Pops Orchestra and Director of the Morgenstern Dance Studio. His daughter Emily, a student at Beachwood High School, is concertmaster of her school orchestra and a member of the Contemporarily Youth Orchestra. His daughter Jenny, a graduate of the Cleveland Institute of Music and Carnegie Mellon University, is a violinist with the Charlotte Symphony Orchestra.