Jesse Rosen  
President and CEO  
League of American Orchestras

Since becoming President and CEO of the League of American Orchestras in 2008, Jesse Rosen has been a leading voice for the League’s more than 2,000 member organizations and individuals, empowering them with knowledge and perspective to navigate a rapidly changing environment.

Under Rosen’s leadership, the League has advocated for orchestras’ deeper engagement with community, renewed efforts to address diversity, greater discipline in relation to fiscal health, increased use of data to inform decision-making, and widespread engagement with composers. He has increased the League’s impact by building partnerships with organizations such as New Music USA, BoardSource, the Thornton School of Music at USC, the Sphinx Organization, and the Federal Mediation and Conciliation Service, and has given voice to America’s orchestras through his public statements, Huffington Post blog, Symphony magazine column, national media interviews, and international appearances.

During his twenty-year tenure at the League, Rosen has been instrumental in overseeing the League’s renewed focus on developing longitudinal research benefitting the entire orchestra field and has created new programs and initiatives in the areas of equity, diversity, and inclusion; artistry; leadership development; governance; capitalization; and community engagement. These programs and initiatives have included: Ford Made in America, the largest-ever orchestra commissioning consortium; the Ford Musician Awards for Excellence in Community Service; the Music Alive composer residency program; the Noteboom Governance Center, strengthening governance practice; and the American Orchestras’ Futures Fund, promoting experimentation and innovation.

There has been an exponential increase in the number of members benefitting from League programs and initiatives, as well as an upturn in the profile of orchestras among the nation’s cultural, policy, and opinion leaders. Under his direction, the League has been a catalyst for the orchestra field’s collective action around equity, diversity, and inclusion (EDI), including the drive to increase participation of musicians from underrepresented communities. Among the League’s endeavors are annual Forums and national task forces that led to the creation of the National Alliance for Audition Support (NAAS), supporting early career Black and Latinx musicians with mentorships and audition travel stipends; the creation of two major quantitative and qualitative studies on diversity in orchestras; and the launch of The Catalyst Fund regranting program, building the internal capacity of orchestras to advance their understanding of EDI and to foster effective EDI practices.
Rosen serves on the boards of the American Composers Orchestra and the Performing Arts Alliance, and is a member of the National Center for Arts Research Board of Advisors. He speaks regularly at major arts convenings, and is a frequent guest of conservatories and schools of music. Rosen is a lifelong musician and experienced orchestra executive who has served as general manager of the Seattle Symphony, executive director of the American Composers Orchestra in New York City, and orchestra manager of the New York Philharmonic. A trombonist, Rosen received his bachelor’s degree from the Manhattan School of Music and pursued graduate studies at The Juilliard School.

Updated 4/15/2019