



NATIONAL
REPERTORY
ORCHESTRA

Changing Lives Through Music!

Michael Stern, Music Director

Position: RESIDENT CONDUCTING FELLOW
Department: Artistic
Office: Seasonal, unpaid full-time fellowship
Location: Breckenridge, CO

The National Repertory Orchestra offers experiential learning on the ins and outs of an orchestra and a thriving career in the Arts! Spend a summer with our artistically minded team in Breckenridge, CO and build your on-the-ground, professional experience.

Description:

The **Resident Conducting Fellow** plays a vital role in the National Repertory Orchestra's summer season, providing essential artistic and logistical support while gaining hands-on conducting experience. This position requires a thorough study of all repertoire featured on the NRO season, serving as the cover conductor for all performances (including Pops, 4th of July, and Film). The Fellow will attend all rehearsals and concerts, assisting both on stage and from the hall to ensure smooth operations. With open access to the Music Director, guest conductors, and key administrative leaders—including the CEO and Director of Artistic Administration & General Manager—the Fellow will engage in valuable mentorship and professional development opportunities.

Why You Will Love the NRO:

The NRO is an inclusive organization dedicated to teamwork and a highly communicative atmosphere. This professional workplace encourages interaction, synergy, positive feedback, and goal-oriented individuals, all working together to enhance the future of classical music and the Arts.

Our vision is to break barriers between education, performance, and community to develop 21st-century musicians!

What You Will Do:

Artistic & Rehearsal Support

- Serve as **cover conductor** for all performances, studying all repertoire in depth and being prepared to step in at any time.
- Attend all rehearsals, dress rehearsals, and concerts; take detailed notes for the Music Director and guest conductors.
- Assist from both the hall and backstage as needed to ensure smooth rehearsal flow and concert execution.
- Lead select sectional rehearsals or offstage ensembles, as assigned.
- Communicate proactively with the Music Director, guest conductors, librarians, production team, and staff regarding rehearsal needs and artistic preparation.

Administrative & Operational Responsibilities

- Assist orchestra management during rehearsals and concerts with tasks such as stage transitions, equipment needs and supporting overall logistical efficiency.
- Maintain high professionalism and adhere to all expectations outlined in the NRO Handbook, including housing and community standards.
- Participate in meetings, donor or patron events, educational activities, and community engagement opportunities when requested.
- Other duties as assigned by Music Director and/or Director of Artistic Administration and General Manager.

Professional Development

- Conduct the National Repertory Orchestra on at least 2 masterworks performances with repertoire to be determined between Music Director, Director of Artistic Administration and General Manager, and Resident Conducting Fellow.
- Engage in mentorship sessions with the Music Director and guest conductors.
- Receive feedback on conducting, rehearsal technique, score study, and professional leadership.

Candidate Profile:

Required:

- Strong conducting training with demonstrable podium experience, preferably with conservatory, university, or festival ensembles.
- Excellent score study skills and the ability to prepare large-scale works independently.
- Strong rehearsal technique and the ability to communicate effectively with professional-level musicians.
- High level of organizational ability, professionalism, and personal accountability.
- Ability to work productively in a fast-paced, high-pressure festival environment.
- Excellent interpersonal and communication skills.
- Must be eligible to work in the United States for the duration of the fellowship.

Preferred

- Prior experience as a cover conductor or assistant conductor with a professional, collegiate, or youth orchestra.
- Experience running sectionals or coaching orchestral musicians.
- Interest in community engagement, education, or arts administration.

Compensation:

- ✓ FREE employee/fellowship housing in Breckenridge
- ✓ \$85 weekly food stipend
- ✓ Partial travel stipend

Your Time in Breckenridge:

The position will begin in early June and run through mid-August. Exact dates TBA.

Applicants must submit:

- A resume or CV
- A cover letter outlining interest in the position
- Conducting video links (no longer than 15 minutes in total length)
- Contact information for two references

Send to izabel@nromusic.org. Please type “Resident Conducting Fellow” in the subject line.

Fellowships are open until filled.

About the National Repertory Orchestra:

Under the leadership of Music Director [Michael Stern](#), the [National Repertory Orchestra](#) (NRO) is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization and a preeminent intensive fellowship that develops diverse, thoughtful and socially conscious musicians through experiential learning. The NRO inspires young professional musicians to be great leaders in their communities while *Changing Lives Through Music!*

Founded in 1960 in Estes Park by cellist Walter Charles as the “Blue Jeans Symphony,” the NRO has taken residencies in the most spectacular Colorado locations, including Evergreen, Keystone and, currently, Breckenridge. [Carl Topilow](#) was Music Director from 1978 until 2020 and maintains an active role with the orchestra as Music Director Laureate. During the summer, audiences can enjoy the NRO’s music festival starring some of the most talented young professional musicians on the planet. The remarkable season also features a multitude of interactive community engagement events, education initiatives, and full orchestral concerts with renowned guest conductors and artists.

Diversity, Equity and Inclusion:

The National Repertory Orchestra is engaged in the ongoing work of identifying and dismantling systems of racism, discrimination, and barriers to access and is committed to build more just ones. We are focused on the actions necessary to build greater equity and inclusion, creating an environment where all people involved with the NRO can feel safe, welcomed, included and respected. To learn more, [read the NRO's DEI Statement](#).

The National Repertory Orchestra is proud to be an equal opportunity employer, and celebrates our employees’ differences, regardless of race, ethnicity, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, national origin, age, ability, or Veteran status.

[NROmusic.org](https://www.nromusic.org)

#NROmusic

