Grande Ronde Symphony

Request for Qualifications:

The Position:
Grande Ronde Symphony Association Assistant Conductor, academic Year 2026-2027

Background:
The Grande Ronde Symphony Association (GRSA) is seeking an Assistant Conductor for the academic year of 2026-2027, beginning September 2026 through the end of May 2027 . The Grande Ronde Symphony Orchestra (GRSO) is the oldest continuously running community orchestra in Oregon, getting its start soon after the end of World War II. The orchestra is a collaboration between the GRSA, Eastern Oregon University, and regional qualified musicians, which rehearses weekly in La Grande, Oregon. The GRSO season follows the academic year of the University, running from the end of September to the end of May, with three subscription concerts in La Grande and one additional concert in Baker City. The orchestra performs a Children's Concert in association with the La Grande School District's 'Fiddle Club' and the Grande Ronde Junior Symphony, and is presented the afternoon of the fall Grande Ronde Symphony performance in November. In addition, the GRSO participates in the annual Holiday Music Festival that takes place the first Saturday and Sunday of December.

Position Summary
The Assistant Conductor of the Grande Ronde Symphony Association (GRSA) assists the Music Director with conducting rehearsals and concerts for the Grande Ronde Symphony Orchestra (GRSO). The Assistant Conductor position is an opportunity for someone seeking experience and podium time in a conducting role for an orchestra. The Assistant Conductor is an independent contractor and not an employee.

Position Expectations and Schedule
- The position requires maximum of 30 rehearsals and 7 concerts for the season September through May.
- If the Music Director is unable to attend a rehearsal, they will notify the GRSA as soon as possible and will be responsible for providing a rehearsal plan to the president of the GRSA and Assistant Conductor.

Position Responsibilities of the Assistant Conductor
- Be the secondary conductor of the GRSO
- Attend the regular rehearsals on Wednesdays, 6:30-9:00 pm, dress rehearsals on Tuesday, 6:30-9:00 pm, and the symphony concerts on Wednesday, 6-10:00 pm for the three seasonal concerts held at EOU as well as the Fall concert held in Baker City, 10:00am - 3:00pm. See tentative schedule at the conclusion of this document.
- Conduct the Annual Holiday Concert performances of the GRSO, held on Saturday evening, December 5, 2026 from 7:00-8:00 pm and Sunday afternoon, December 6th from 2:00 pm – 3:00 pm. One additional rehearsal will be held prior to these performances, which the Assistant Conductor will oversee.
- Communicate in a timely manner with key orchestra personnel as needed. (e.g., Orchestra manager*, Concertmaster, Orchestra librarian*, Fiddle Club, GR Junior Symphony*, and the president of GRSA) *Note: These are paid positions within the GRSA budget and it is possible to have the Assistant Director also cover these positions.
- Work collaboratively with area music educators and musicians.

Position Compensation

The Assistant Conductor is considered an independent contractor and will be responsible for all personal state and federal taxes and any other costs associated with the fulfillment of the contract. The Assistant Conductor's contract will include the following compensations:

- Annual consulting fee of $3,000 – $3,500, depending on qualifications.

Position Oversight

The Assistant Conductor reports to the Music Director of the GRSA who in turn communicates with the President of the GRSA. The president and the Music Director annually evaluate the performance of the Assistant Conductor.

Position Required Qualifications:

1. Significant musical ability including an ear for intonation, balance, tone, color, and score reading
2. Podium presence and personality that inspires confidence, enhancing the performance
3. Effective baton and rehearsal technique in an orchestral setting
4. Communication skills in writing and public speaking
5. Ability to work with a very diverse orchestra, board, and community
6. The ability to address musical issues such as intonation, timing, balance and interpretation, as they come up in rehearsal

Position Preferred Qualifications:

1. Live within convenient travel distance and time of La Grande, OR.

Application Deadline: 5:00 pm (PST), July 24, 2026

Apply here: GRSA Assistant Conductor - Job Application

Grande Ronde Symphony
2026-2027 Schedule
Dress Rehearsal & Concert Dates

EOU – Mckenzie Theatre
Fall Term 2026
Tuesday, November 17, 2026: Dress rehearsal 6:30pm
Wednesday November 18, 2026: Children's Concert 12:30
Wednesday November 18, 2026: GRSO concert 7:00pm
Baker City - St. Francis de Sales Cathedral
Saturday, November 21, 2026: Rehearsal at 10:30am; Lunch; Concert 1:00pm

EOU – Mckenzie Theatre - Holiday Music Festival:
Saturday December 5, 2026: On stage at 6:30pm and concert 7:00 – 7:10pm
Sunday, December 6, 2026: On stage at 2:30pm and concert 3:00pm – 3:10pm

Winter Term 2027
Tuesday, March 9, 2027: Dress rehearsal 6:30pm
Wednesday, March 10, 2027: GRSO concert 7:00pm
Spring Term 2027
Tuesday, May 25, 2027: Dress rehearsal, plus Side-by-Side rehearsal with Jr. Symphony & Fiddle Club 6:15pm
Wednesday, May 26, 2027: GRSO concert 7:00pm