

Livingston Symphony Orchestra

Timeline and History

AUGUST 1994

The first auditions for the LSO were held.

SEPTEMBER 1994

LSO officially began its first season.

1994 - 1998

Stuart Sankey as Music Director.

1998 - 2004

Tim Meixner as Music Director.

2004 - 2007

Rachel Lauber as Music Director.

2007 - 2010

Joel Schut as Music Director.

2010 - 2011

Rick Uren as Music Director.

2011 - 2012

Warren Puffer Jones as Music Director.

2012 - Present

David Schultz as Music Director.

2015

Introduction of the Livingston Youth Orchestra (LYO).

2015 - 2018

Alison Campbell as Music Director of LYO.

2018 - 2021

Joseph Alcocer as Music Director of LYO.

2019 - 2020

LSO celebrates in 25th Anniversary Season cut short due to Covid in March 2020.

2020 - 2021

Virtual LSO.

2021 - Present

LSO returned to in person rehearsals and concerts.

2022 - 2023

Joe Snider as Music Director of LYO.

In the spring of 1994, the Community Theatre of Howell had a successful production of Fiddler on the Roof. The musicians of the pit orchestra enjoyed their time together and wanted to figure out a way to continue playing together after the production ended. Three violinists from the pit orchestra, Tracy Beauregard, Ray Lund, and Eve Byrd joined together and became the founding members of the LSO. During the summer, the trio registered as a non-profit named Livingston Symphony Orchestra and placed an advertisement in the Press & Argus for auditions. There was a lot of interest from the get-go, especially in winds and brass. Auditions were held in August 1994, which had as many as 30 clarinetists auditioning to be part of the orchestra!

The LSO's first performance was at a private party during the fall of 1994 and the first on-stage performance was the Holiday concert at Jane Tasch Theater in Pinckney. The orchestra began with three concerts a year, and after a few years changed to four concerts per year because the members wanted to perform more often.

A variety of talented conductors have contributed to the success of the orchestra over the years (listed on the left). Each one has brought his/her expertise to the orchestra. The current conductor, David Schultz, has been a main contributor the LSO's increasing ability to perform a more difficult concert repertoire. We are so thankful for him.

During the first 15 years the LSO was based in Pinckney for rehearsals and performances. In 2009, the LSO moved its base to the Brighton area, which has been a great central location.

The LSO president, Tracy Beauregard, said one of the main goals of the orchestra since the beginning was to start a youth string program for grades 6-12. In 2015, the LSO was able to reach this goal by introducing the LYO at our holiday concert, however in 2023 the LYO was paused for the time being.

The LSO is excited to continue to provide local musicians an opportunity to develop and enhance their skills, and to foster a love of music in our community.