

Solano Winds Community Concert Band is currently seeking a Music Director/Conductor to begin in the 2025-2026 season.

Job Title: Music Director, Solano Winds

Organization: Solano Winds Community Concert Band (SWCCB)

Location: The band rehearses and performs throughout Solano County, CA, primarily in Fairfield and Vacaville. No compensation is provided for relocation or commuting.

Position Type: Part-Time, Independent Contractor (One-Year Term)

Stipend: Based on qualifications and experience

Contact Information

Solano Winds Community Concert Band

PO Box 722

Fairfield, 94533

<https://solanowinds.org/>

Band Description

Marking its 30th year, the Solano Winds Community Concert Band (SWCCB) is an acclaimed community-based wind ensemble, dedicated to providing local and regional musicians with a recreational opportunity for performance experiences.

Our mission is to offer engaging and diverse concert band literature, foster a friendly and supportive atmosphere for members, contribute to community enrichment through musical performances, and support music education. We strive to enhance civic pride, broaden public awareness of band literature, and encourage area music programs and composers.

Our members will tell you that our mission is to perform high quality wind band literature well, and to have fun doing it...we are a community!

Position Overview

The Music Director serves as the artistic leader of the SWCCB, responsible for directing and shaping the band's musical activities and public image. While the role does not involve administrative duties on the Board of Directors, the Musical Director receives authority from and reports directly to the Board, and is entrusted with achieving the band's artistic potential and community engagement goals. Internally, the Music Director handles repertoire, programming, and artistic production. Externally, the Music Director takes charge of enhancing the band's community involvement and visibility, and fosters a friendly, welcoming environment for both musicians and audiences, all while striving for musical excellence.

Primary Duties

○ Artistic Vision

- Sustain the mission, vision, integrity, and goals of Solano Winds.
- Work with the Board, band participants, and the public to promote a positive atmosphere of community within the organization.
- Develop the overall public image of the band in the community and represent the band at various civic functions and organizations.
- Network with arts organizations, Music Directors, and other community groups to increase the visibility of Solano Winds and to encourage collaboration.
- Attend scheduled SW Board meetings as an advisory member and provide regular reports to the Board.
- Participate in professional development opportunities when possible.

○ Musical Direction

- Manage all musical aspects of the concert band and its small ensembles. Form and rehearse jazz band as needed.
- Conduct approximately 35 rehearsals and 4 concerts during the Solano Winds concert season: mid-August through the Carmichael concert in early June, with breaks from Carmichael through mid-August, and after the December holiday concert through the first rehearsal of the new year in early January.
- Design each concert performance including theme development and integration of guest artists, ensembles, soloists, and visual elements while collaborating with applicable Board and committee members.
- Provide concert program planning by supporting each musical selection to the Board regarding its expected level of performance difficulty, cost, audience enjoyment, educational qualities and anticipated reception by student, beginner, and experienced audience members.

○ Personnel

- Foster a positive and inclusive learning environment for all band members during rehearsals and performances.
- Select and approve playing personnel; is the final authority on section leaders, chair assignments, and concert participation; extending to small groups.
- Communicate regularly with section leaders regarding musical expectations and repertoire to cover in any sectionals.
- Recruit new members as necessary for good instrumental balance.

Primary Duties (continued)

○ Logistics

- Plan and procure music literature, selected from the music library and/or purchased with budget funds as new music.
- Submit budget projections to the Board for music programming, equipment, and guest artists or conductors as part of the yearly fiscal planning.
- Arrange dates, venues, and logistical support for small ensemble and concert band performances.
- Work with the Stage Manager to arrange for all equipment and associated needs at VPAT, the Downtown Theatre, PVE, and other venues for concert performances.
- Coordinate musical and logistical arrangements with individual and group guest performers and conductors.

○ Marketing/Publicity

- Participate in the publicity and promotion of concerts, the community concert band concept, and philanthropic support as needed or requested by the Board.
- Work with the Marketing/Publicity team to provide program notes, biographical sketches of guest performers or conductors, and other essential information for use in concert programs.

○ Education/Community Outreach

- visit/conduct participating high school ensembles to help promote program
- participate in student auditions for scholarships
- Identify and work with outstanding guest artists, composers, and conductors to enhance the band's artistic profile and diversity of programming.
- Engage with diverse audiences to create meaningful connections through music.
- Participate in community outreach - meet with donors as needed and represent the band at public events and media engagements.
- Assist in the general promotion of the band by being available for public appearances for ticket campaigns, fund drives, etc., when appropriate.
- Develop a strong working relationship with the community music educators (grade school through university level)

Qualifications & Skills

- Bachelor's degree in music; Masters or Doctorate preferred. Minimum 5 years of experience in teaching, directing, and conducting an advanced level wind ensemble.
- Practical knowledge and understanding of all instruments used in concert band performance, functional keyboard skills.
- Mastery of at least one instrument, and experience as a performer, enabling musical insight and sensitivity to the musician's point of view.
- Experienced understanding of programming, performing, and conducting diverse musical genres and styles of band literature: historic to modern, big band jazz, works by women, and diverse composers and arrangers.
- An accurate ear for intonation, balance, and color; advanced skills in sight reading and transposition, able to identify and rectify tuning, phrasing, technique, and any other musicianship challenges in rehearsals.
- Advanced skills in musical analysis; professional competence in counterpoint, harmony, composition, musical structures, and orchestration.
- Effective rehearsal technique and podium presence that balances attention to technical details with communication of overall interpretive goals.
- Experienced understanding of established performance traditions.

Professional & Personal Characteristics

- Expertise in conducting, inspiring, and motivating volunteer musicians with a wide range of ages, musical skill, and concert band experience, with patience and adaptability, and a good sense of humor.
- Excellent interpersonal, organizational, and leadership skills, with the ability to communicate across diverse personalities and abilities.
- Committed to personal and organizational transparency and integrity, using influence to further the band's mission.
- Passionate about designing, performing, and enriching the musical experience through strong connections with the band, audience, and community.
- Committed to fulfilling Solano Wind's potential as an artistic and community resource, and a willingness to be involved in the life of the community.
- Basic knowledge of the SWCCB as a nonprofit organization, with an understanding and appreciation of the roles of the board, the manager, the musicians, and the volunteers.
- Adept at operating within established budgetary constraints.
- Confident in making difficult decisions with fairness, objectivity, and respect for musical and personnel needs.
- Ability to inspire and communicate musically and verbally with audiences of all ages, both on and off the stage.