

**OVERVIEW:** The Spoleto Festival USA Orchestra is central to the international performance excellence at Spoleto Festival USA, providing a valuable opportunity for young musicians to gain extensive performance experience.

Each year an original orchestra is assembled for a 17-day Spoleto Festival USA engagement. As a result, the Festival's orchestra continually takes on a dynamic new identity with the participation of both returning and new musicians. Through nationwide auditions, an extremely talented and diverse group of young professionals is selected to form the festival's resident ensemble.

**LEADERSHIP:** The orchestra works closely with Spoleto Festival USA's Resident Conductor and Director of Orchestral Activities John Kennedy and guest conductors in opera, symphonic, choral, chamber, and contemporary music performances.

**PERFORMANCES:** As the orchestra in residence, the Festival Orchestra accompanies the season's opera selections and performs symphonic concerts. In addition, smaller ensemble groups are selected to participate in choral, chamber, and contemporary music performances.

**MEMBERS:** The 2020 Spoleto Festival USA Orchestra consists of more than 80 musicians.

**AUDITIONS:** Auditions for the orchestra are granted to select applicants. They begin in January and take place in major cities across the United States including Boston, Chicago, Los Angeles, New York, and Miami.

**CAREERS:** Alumni of the Spoleto Festival USA Orchestra can be found in almost every professional orchestra in the United States including:

- New York Philharmonic
- Boston Symphony Orchestra
- Chicago Symphony Orchestra
- The Cleveland Orchestra
- The Philadelphia Orchestra
- The Metropolitan Opera

The 2020 season of Spoleto Festival USA takes place May 22 – June 7. For additional information, please visit [spoletousa.org](http://spoletousa.org).

**PRESS CONTACTS:** Jessie Bagley | 843.720.1136 | [jbagley@spoletousa.org](mailto:jbagley@spoletousa.org)  
Jenny Ouellette | 843.720.1137 | [jouellette@spoletousa.org](mailto:jouellette@spoletousa.org)