

Auburn Symphony Orchestra

New Music Director: Wesley Schulz

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Wesley Schulz appointed new Music Director for the Auburn Symphony Orchestra

After a nearly two-and-a-half-year process, following the retirement of founder and former music director Stewart Kershaw, the Auburn Symphony Board of Directors has chosen acclaimed conductor Wesley Schulz as its new conductor and music director. The decision followed the recommendation of the orchestra's search committee and reflected feedback from musicians, audience and community members, in addition to the symphony board members.

Previously, the 35-year-old Schulz served as Music Director of the Bainbridge Symphony Orchestra and the Seattle Festival Orchestra. He was also Director of Orchestras at University of Puget Sound. While he was a finalist for this position, he was also appointed Associate Conductor of the North Carolina Symphony in Raleigh where he now has a temporary residence. He will be present approximately eight weeks per season with the Auburn Symphony.

Lee Valenta, the symphony's General Manager, is really happy with the choice. "We have been increasing our educational outreach programs with local schools and Wesley is looking forward to expanding that work even more. He is keenly interested in sparking the interest of young people in orchestral music and perhaps even in taking up an instrument. I think the local schools are going to love working with him."

Schulz will take the podium beginning with the symphony's opening concert of the 2018-19 season on October 14. Before that, he will be featured guest at the symphony's annual gala auction and wine event fundraiser April 21 at the Meridian Valley Country Club.

Schulz graduated magna cum laude with Bachelor degrees in Percussion Performance and Music Education from Ball State University. He also holds Doctorate and Master's degrees from the University of Texas in Orchestral Conducting.

Read more about Wesley Schulz at wesleyschulz.com or in the Auburn Reporter [article](#) by Robert Whale.

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