

The Spoleto Festival USA Orchestra

Fact Sheet

OVERVIEW: The Spoleto Festival USA Orchestra is central to the international excellence of performance at Spoleto Festival USA and has, over the years, proven to be one of the finest opportunities for young musicians to gain extensive performance experience.

Each year an original orchestra is assembled for a limited, 17-day, Spoleto Festival USA engagement. As a result, every year the festival's orchestra 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 the festival's Music Director for Opera & Orchestra, Emmanuel Villaume, as well as with 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 also performs the season's symphonic concerts. In addition, smaller ensemble groups are selected to participate in choral, chamber and contemporary music performances.

MEMBERS: The 2007 Orchestra was made-up of 113 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
- Cleveland Orchestra
- Philadelphia Orchestra
- The Metropolitan Opera

The 2008 Spoleto Festival USA will take place May 23 – June 8, 2008. For additional information please visit www.spoletousa.org.

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