

THE ILLINOIS COUNCIL OF ORCHESTRAS AWARDS FOR 2024 WILL BE CONFERRED IN THE FOLLOWING CATEGORIES:

- Cultural Leadership Award
- Orchestra of the Year*
- Conductor of the Year, professional orchestra
- Conductor of the Year, community/small orchestra
- Conductor of the Year, college/university orchestra
- Board President of the Year
- Executive/General Manager of the Year
- Volunteer of the Year
- Programming of the Year
- Community Relations of the Year
- Marketing Campaign of the Year
- Education Program of the Year
- Guild of the Year

*Four separate awards will be presented in this category: professional orchestras, community orchestras, youth orchestras, and chamber ensembles.

SPECIFIC CRITERIA considered for each award category are listed below. These are guidelines – not requirements – and are offered to make the application process clearer.



CULTURAL LEADERSHIP AWARD

Nominees in the category should have demonstrated sustained leadership, extending beyond their own organization and community, that has profoundly impacted the state of the Arts in Illinois.

ORCHESTRA OF THE YEAR, ALL CATEGORIES

- Programming
- Community involvement/outreach
- Opportunities for youth
- Growth of audience
- Fiscal responsibility
- Community Support

CONDUCTOR OF THE YEAR, PROFESSIONAL ORCHESTRA

- Innovation in programming and soloist selection
- Personal involvement in community
- Relationship with musicians and board
- Quality of performances

CONDUCTOR OF THE YEAR, COMMUNITY/SMALL ORCHESTRA

- Open to conductors of community and youth orchestras and of chamber ensembles
- Innovation in programming and soloist selection
- Personal involvement in community
- Relationship with musicians and board
- Quality of performances

CONDUCTOR OF THE YEAR, COLLEGE/UNIVERSITY ORCHESTRA

- Open to conductors of college or university sponsored orchestras
- Exposure to a broad range of orchestral repertoire
- Success in the education and training of orchestra musicians
- Leadership in ensemble program growth
- Quality of performances
- Support of college/university community and/or the general public

BOARD PRESIDENT OF THE YEAR

- Demonstrates leadership abilities
- Support of board, staff and orchestra
- Tangible results (increased audience, new facilities, endowment fund)

EXECUTIVE/GENERAL MANAGER OF THE YEAR

- Demonstrates organizational abilities
- Support of board, staff and orchestra

VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR

- Number of hours, years of service
- Impact of contribution on organization

PROGRAMMING OF THE YEAR

- Innovative musical choices – new music and old
- Interesting soloists
- Interesting themes

COMMUNITY RELATIONS OF THE YEAR

- Projects undertaken to benefit the community as a whole
- Projects involving other organizations in the community

GUILD (or VOLUNTEER ENTITY) OF THE YEAR

- Numbers involved relative to size of organization
- Special projects contributing to organization

GENERAL INFORMATION

Application deadline: February 1, 2024.

All applicants must be current members of the Illinois Council of Orchestras.

Awards will be based on achievements of the past season, 2022-2023.

An organization may apply for awards in more than one category in the same year. If applying for an award in more than one category, you will be prompted to submit separate application for each on the same form.

After having received an award, an organization will not be considered for an award in the same category for a period of five years. The organization may apply in other categories.

A community orchestra is one in which at least 60% of the musicians are either volunteers or are paid less than union scale.

A college/university orchestra is one in which at least 75% of the musicians are registered students.

If requested, one on-site presentation will be made at a performance by winning orchestras between March and July 2024, by a member of the Board of the ICO.

The Illinois Council of Orchestras reserves the right not to name a winner in every category.

No applications or additional materials will be accepted after February 1, 2024..

Please follow instructions on the online application form at www.ilcouncilorchestras.org

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2024 Award Nomination Information

Questions? Contact Info@ilcouncilorchestras.org

