

**On behalf of the musicians of the Oregon Symphony Orchestra and the members of AFM Local 99, it is our pleasure to welcome you to Portland for the 2024 ICSOM Conference.**

Portland is the largest city in Oregon and well known for its food and beer scenes. It is located at the confluence of the Willamette and Columbia Rivers, about 60 miles inland from where the Columbia flows into the Pacific Ocean and where explorers Lewis and Clark ended their famous cross-country journey. The Columbia River Gorge and the Oregon Coast are both within a 90-minute drive of the city, making Portland a year-round destination for all sorts of outdoor activities. Portland author Cheryl Strayed described her journey along the Pacific Crest Trail in her memoir *Wild*, ending her trek only an hour outside of Portland. This is one of the many notable books by local authors available at Powell's Books, one of the largest independent booksellers in the country. August is a particularly great time to visit, given the clear, temperate days and the late summer sunsets.

This year's conference will be held at the Benson Hotel in downtown Portland, located only a few blocks from Powell's Books and the Willamette River waterfront. To get to the hotel from PDX Airport, you can take the MAX Red Line to Pioneer Square North and walk four blocks. The train will take about 45 minutes while Uber, Lyft, or taxi will take as little as 20 minutes. For those driving to Portland, there is discounted parking at the Benson as well multiple parking garages downtown.

Tuesday night's volunteer activity will be an informal concert at Central City Concern, a group that works with the houseless community in Portland to offer shelter, job training, addiction recovery, and healthcare. Oregon Symphony musicians are on standby for informal chamber groups and any delegates who care to leave their instruments at home can still be involved by helping assemble welcome kits for new CCC residents. The Wednesday night mixer will take place at the Oregon Symphony's retail space--on the ground floor of our office building, this is a space that we use to serve multiple needs, from rehearsal space for chamber groups to informal performances and board meetings. There will be several activities to choose from on Friday night that allow you to explore some of Portland's unique charms and delicious treats.

We will provide more information about places to eat and visit as we get closer to the conference. We look forward to seeing you all in Portland in August!

In solidarity,

Martha Long  
Conference Coordinator and  
OSO Orchestra Committee Co-chair

Zachariah Galatis  
OSO ICSOM Representative

Charles Noble  
OSO Orchestra Committee Co-chair

Dana Rokosny  
President of AFM Local 99