

Jordan Randall Smith \ Conductor

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Greetings! I am grateful to be a candidate for Music Director of *your* West Shore Symphony Orchestra! I'm thrilled to share this terrific music by Turina together with you over the next few weeks. I've admired the West Shore Symphony Orchestra for many years. With the impressive array of soloists, and *terrific* performances of beloved repertoire, original programming, and meaningful connection to South Central PA (which I call home), I think West Shore Symphony Orchestra has established itself as a pioneering community orchestra with a growing reputation. Meeting and working with the members I've met so far has only reinforced to me how much we already share a commitment to the same musical and community values.



My amazing spouse Erin and I

The energy that I've watched you put into your performances has been inspiring, uplifting, and challenging in the best possible way. Bravi tutti!

Shared Folder

I'll use this [Shared Folder](#) to upload any documents or other resources that might be of use as I prepare the weekly notes document.

Performance Indications

I'm delighted that we will share two movements from Turina's *Danzas Fantasticas*. Most of my musical notes appear in a document titled **Performance Indications**, including embedded links to musical and dance examples. (Also available in the [shared folder](#).) I hope you will take a look before rehearsal.

Concert Link

Let's get people out there to hear this wonderful concert! For convenience, here's the [concert link](#) you already have, to have a handy way to share it out to friends and fans of West Shore Symphony Orchestra.

About Me

I included my original cover letter and resume in the [shared folder](#), and my [website](#) is also available for some of my background. But there are things you might want to know that won't be found there:

Firstly, in addition to my musical background, I have significant experience leading orchestras and performing arts nonprofits in roles beyond the conductor's podium. I'm particularly proud of the work I get to do right now with my [youth orchestra](#) where I was recently promoted to Artistic Director across the organization as a whole, including administrative responsibilities. We've taken steps to build a new website, add a new string orchestra for younger players grades 3-6, and we are about to collaborate with Hearts for Music, a special needs orchestra in Allentown! I'm over the moon at opportunities like that to take great music, but go beyond - not merely community *outreach*, but community *relationship-building*.

Second, I am and have always been an eclectic: I love working with professionals, students, volunteers, retirees, young kiddos, and anyone else who shares a passion for making music. I'm *particularly* inspired by volunteer music ensembles and the energy in the room when surrounded by people who connect so directly with the music. I love working with the entire range of musicians I mentioned but I have to mention that working with a community orchestra makes me feel especially "at home" in a way that few other experiences do. I'm looking forward to our time together!

Third, I believe that we have a unique moment as artists in this increasingly fractious society in which we live. Community orchestras serve in many ways as the perfect *antidote* to the loneliness epidemic, the crisis



Our cats, Elphie and Cookie, in their first and only documented nap together.

of meaning, and the deep anxieties that certain technologies are bringing upon our culture. We find ourselves gripped by forces that are all too capable of tearing at our social fabric, atomizing our social lives, and leave us thirsty for connection. I propose that orchestral musicians proudly present ourselves as a solution to some of what ails our society, perhaps especially now in the shadow of AI.

Speaking of human connection, here's some information you truly won't find anywhere else: It's been an exciting year! My wife, Erin, and I celebrated our fourth anniversary, and the past year has been one of joy, excitement, and change. One of our nephews just

completed his first week of 1st grade, and the other completed his first week of college! We are both tremendous Star Trek nerds and each have other eclectic interests. Erin is great with gardening and loves to knit and when I'm not studying my scores or learning about a composer, I like to read books about a variety of topics including history and economics. Erin's also a wonderful flutist when I can convince her to play! She's a brilliant reading specialist and I've been amazed and inspired to learn about the pedagogy of reading.

In the meantime, I want to get to know all of you and I hope we find opportunities to meet and discuss music as well as your passions! Take a look at some opportunities for us to connect this Fall:

Reception

As you probably know, my opportunity to work with you landed atop a prior engagement by luck of the draw, so I am sad to say that I won't be with you in person for the performance, but I am grateful that we'll be able to take a little extra time for a reception on November 2!

Pre-Concert

Again, while I will be in engaged on the day of the concert, I still look forward to being with you remotely either live or via video during the pre-concert conversation! I hope you'll join Jennifer, Jerod, and myself for a meaningful conversation about our program.

Before Rehearsal

Each week in September, I'll be available from roughly 6:40-7:15 before rehearsal to meet and visit with you. I hope you'll come early so we can chat!

Zoom

Perhaps you'd like more time or you can't visit before rehearsal. No problem! Get in touch and we'll schedule a [Zoom meeting](#) to get to know each other. I believe in the importance of personal relationships and I want to get to know each of you as individuals.

Your Story

IMPORTANT: More than any of these above, I wanted to ask you for this one favor: **would you take 5 minutes to send me a photo and tell me about yourself?** What is your musical and life story? What motivates you every day, and why has WSSO become an important part of your life? What makes it special to you? I sincerely hope you'll take me up on this and I promise to reply to each message!

Thanks again for the opportunity to work together. Please don't hesitate to get in touch with me at jordanconductor@icloud.com or 570-809-3933, or schedule a zoom or in-person meeting. Thank you!

Best,

