

## What is a Conductor?

The conductor of an orchestra is the leader. They must know a great deal about music, the great composers, and their works. Also, conductors must have the personality and skill to direct many players at once and to turn them into a team. Often conductors hold a *baton* that they use to mark the beats of the music for the orchestra to follow. Conductors may sometimes play more than one instrument, but they do not need to play every instrument. Instead, they understand how each instrument works and the special qualities of each instrument. Most importantly, the conductor learns each piece of music well enough to guide all the players in an exciting performance.



*baton* - A wooden stick, approximately 1 ft. in length, that the conductor uses to communicate with the orchestra. The baton helps the musicians see the conductor's motions so that they can play better together.

## Katy Wolfe Zahn

**KATY WOLFE ZAHN** has appeared extensively in this region as well as overseas as an active and versatile performer fluent in both opera and musical theater. Favorite roles include Sally in *Cabaret* the title role in *Suor Angelica*, Desiree in *A Little Night Music*, Mercedes in *Carmen* with the Knoxville Opera Company, and Jenny in *Threepenny Opera* with the Oak Ridge Symphony. She frequently performs as a soloist with the Oak Ridge Symphony including a performance of Haydn's *Lord Nelson Mass*, which she premiered at the Cathedral Music Festival in Southwark, Coventry and Salisbury Cathedrals in England. Ms. Zahn has appeared with the Knoxville Symphony Orchestra's Chamber Classics and Pops Series as well as singing for the Fourth of July Celebration in World's Fair Park.



Ms. Zahn holds a Bachelor's degree from Belmont University and a Master's degree from University of Tennessee where she was a graduate assistant and Knoxville Opera apprentice. A student of George Bitzas', Katy is a private voice teacher, conductor and director of *Sound Company*, The Children's Performing Choir of Oak Ridge, and resides in Oak Ridge with her supportive family.

## What is an Orchestra?

Today's symphony orchestra varies in size from city to city, but usually has about 100 players. Orchestras are different from bands because they include string instruments. The string section is the largest section of players in the orchestra, with about 60 people. The woodwind section is made up of approximately 12 or more players, and the brass section typically has 10 players. Finally, the percussion section ranges in numbers, depending on the amount of percussion parts used in a piece.

The anatomy of a symphony sheet included in your teacher's guide shows how you will see the Knoxville Symphony Orchestra seated when you come to the concert. The players are seated in a semicircle facing the conductor, with the strings right in front. The woodwinds are usually behind the strings, and behind them are the brass. The percussion is normally seated at the back of the orchestra on the right and left corners of the semicircle.

## Meet the KSO

### ELLEN CONNORS, BASSOON



- Has played with the KSO for two years
- Originally from Grand Rapids, Michigan
- Has studied folk music in Europe and Asia
- Received her Master of Music degree from the Yale School of Music
- Has performed in Korea and China
- Has attended summer festival programs at Tanglewood, Aspen, Sarasota, and Chautauqua Institute
- Enjoys traveling, singing, and foreign languages

### KATHRYN GAWNE, VIOLA



- Has played with the KSO for nine years
- Won her first orchestra job with the KSO at the age of 22
- Moved to Knoxville from Chicago
- Teaches both violin and viola
- Likes sewing and designing children's clothing
- Also enjoys exploring the park behind her house with her husband and daughter
- Katy writes a blog about her life as a KSO musician—you can find it on the KSO website [www.knoxvillesymphony.com](http://www.knoxvillesymphony.com)

## Concert Behavior

The musicians who are performing for you would like to have your help in making this a wonderful concert. It is important to remember that the orchestra is in the same room with you, not in a movie or on TV. If you talk or make other noises, they can hear you. If you get up and leave in the middle of the performance, they can see you. These things could make the musicians take their minds off of their music and they may not be able to perform at their best. These things can also be distracting to those around you.

### JENNIFER CRAKE, FRENCH HORN

- Has played with the KSO for five years
- Has also played with Tallahassee Symphony, Rapides Symphony and Lake Charles Symphony, and the American Wind Symphony
- Was born in West Virginia and grew up in Texas
- Received her Master's Degree in Horn Performance from Florida State University
- Currently works as a realtor and just began Law School at the University of Tennessee



## Job Description - Audience

Please help make this a good performance by showing how to be a good audience.

Be quiet as the lights dim and the concert begins.

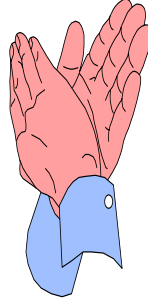
Clap when the concertmaster enters at the beginning of the concert.

Clap when the conductor enters at the beginning of the concert.

Clap to welcome any soloists during the concert.

During the performance watch the conductor. When the conductor puts his hands down and turns to face the audience the piece is completed.

At the end of a piece, clap to let the musicians know you like what you hear.



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