

June 21, 2026

Dear Members of the Search Committee,

I am writing to express my enthusiastic interest in the position of Music Director and Conductor of the Panama City Symphony. PCS's commitment to artistic excellence, music education, and community engagement strongly aligns with my own vision of how an orchestra can serve as a transformative cultural force within its community.

I currently serve as Assistant Conductor of the Charleston Symphony Orchestra, Music Director of the Bloomington Symphony Orchestra, and Artistic Director of the Charleston Symphony Youth Orchestra. In these roles, I conduct subscription, educational, family, and community performances, oversee artistic planning and programming, and work closely with musicians, administrators, board members, and patrons to advance each organization's mission.

At Bloomington Symphony Orchestra, I lead artistic planning and conduct a six-concert subscription season while developing innovative programming designed to engage new audiences. At the Charleston Symphony, I conduct family and educational concerts and assist with subscription and pops productions, with my subscription series debut scheduled for September 2026. As Artistic Director of the Charleston Symphony Youth Orchestra, I recently led the ensemble's Carnegie Hall debut, an experience that reinforced my passion for youth development and music education.

I recently completed a Doctor of Musical Arts degree in Orchestral Conducting at the Peabody Conservatory, where I studied with Marin Alsop and Joseph Young. My professional experiences include being selected by Yannick Nézet-Séguin to conduct the Orchestre Métropolitain at Domaine Forget, conducting the Hamburger Symphoniker in Germany, and collaborating with organizations including the Baltimore Symphony Orchestra, Charlotte Symphony Orchestra, and Polish National Radio Symphony Orchestra.

Beyond the podium, I am deeply committed to building meaningful connections between orchestras and their communities. As Founder and Artistic Director of Mudita America and Mudita Japan, I have created international artistic collaborations, educational initiatives, and community-based performances designed to make classical music more accessible and relevant to diverse audiences. These experiences have strengthened my skills in organizational leadership, partnership development, community engagement, and arts advocacy—qualities I believe are essential for today's music directors.

What excites me most about Panama City Symphony is the opportunity to contribute to a growing community while helping shape the orchestra's artistic and civic future. I am particularly inspired by PCS's commitment to education, talent development, and community partnerships, as well as its vision for expanding the cultural life of Bay County. I would welcome the opportunity to collaborate with the Board, musicians, staff, donors, and community leaders to build upon the orchestra's strong foundation and further strengthen its role as a cultural cornerstone of Northwest Florida.

Thank you for your consideration. I would be honored to discuss how my experience, leadership philosophy, and commitment to community-centered artistic excellence can contribute to the continued growth and success of the Panama City Symphony.

Sincerely,
Ryo

Ryo Hasegawa, Conductor

Charleston, SC | +1 407-619-2915 | hasega430@gmail.com | www.hasegawaryo.com

Current Appointments

Assistant Conductor

Charleston Symphony Orchestra, SC | 2025–Present

- Assist and cover all the subscription and pops concerts
- Conduct and curate family, educational, and community concerts
- Scheduled to make a subscription concert debut (September, 2026)

Music Director

Bloomington Symphony Orchestra, IN | 2024–Present

- Conduct all the subscription 6 concerts and lead rehearsals
- Design season programming and artistic planning

Artistic Director and Conductor

Charleston Symphony Youth Orchestra, SC | 2023–Present

- Conducted the orchestra's Carnegie Hall debut (Feb. 2025)
-

Education & Training

Doctor of Musical Arts in Orchestral Conducting

Peabody Conservatory, Baltimore, MD | 2022–2025

Conducting Teachers: Marin Alsop, Joseph Young

Master of Music in Orchestral Conducting

Peabody Conservatory, Baltimore, MD | 2020–2022

Bachelor of Arts in Music

Rollins College, Winter Park, FL | 2016–2019

Conducting Teacher: John V. Sinclair

Selected Professional Engagements & Fellowships

Gust Conductor

Polish National Radio Symphony Orchestra, Poland | February 2027 (upcoming)

Guest Conductor

Dayton Philharmonic Orchestra, Dayton | January 2026

Gust Conductor (Conducting Fellow)

Domaine Forget de Charlevoix, Canada | 2024

- Conducted Orchestre Métropolitain under selection by Yannick Nézet-Séguin

Guest Conductor

Baltimore Symphony Orchestra Academy, MD | 2024, 2025

Guest Conductor

Hamburger Symphoniker, Germany | 2022

Assistant Conductor (selected):

- Charlotte Symphony Orchestra (Francesco Lecce-Chong, Kwamé Ryan) | 2025, 2026
- Polish National Radio Symphony Orchestra on Japan Tour (Marin Alsop) | 2025
- Baltimore Symphony Orchestra (Marin Alsop) | 2021, 2024–25
- Orlando Philharmonic Orchestra (Eric Jacobsen) | 2023
- Omaha Symphony (Joseph Young) | 2022
- São Paulo Symphony Orchestra at Carnegie Hall (Alsop) | 2022
- American Composers Orchestra at Carnegie Hall (Alsop) | 2022

Opera Conducting

Hansel and Gretel – Peabody Opera Theater & Annapolis Opera | 2024

David Efron Conducting Fellow

Chautauqua Institution, NY | 2023

- Conducted Music School Festival Orchestra

Guest Conductor

Tacet(i) Ensemble. Thailand | 2021, 2022

- Premiered “Onokoro” Concerto for Hichiriki by Masatora Goya

Competitions and Auditions

- Philadelphia Orchestra Assistant Conductor Finalist | 2026

Masterclasses & Workshops (selected)

- Baltimore Symphony Orchestra Conducting Masterclasses (Alsop) | 2022, 2023
- National Symphony Orchestra Masterclass (Alsop) | 2024
- Orchestre Métropolitain Masterclass (Nézet-Séguin) | 2024, 2025
- Peabody Conducting Studio Masterclasses | 2021–2024
Instructors include: Dalia Stasevska, Gemma New, Michael Stern, Kevin John Edusei, Kirill Karabits, Jonathon Heyward, Mei-Ann Chen, Fabien Gable
- Summer Conducting Residency Hochschule für Musik und Theater Hamburg | 2022
- International Conducting Workshop & Festival, Sofia | 2019

- Wintergreen Music Academy | 2019
 - Conductors Retreat at Medomak | 2019
 - Baltimore Chamber Orchestra Seminar | 2018, 2019
 - Charleston Symphony Workshop | 2019
 - Vienna Summer Music Festival | 2018
-

Creative Leadership & Artistic Initiatives

Founder & Artistic Director

Mudita America Inc. | Orlando, FL | 2022–Present

- Organized and performed international music collaborations and performances

Founder & Artistic Director

Mudita Japan | Tokyo | 2019–Present

- Hosted concerts and educational workshops for underserved communities

Founder & Artistic Director

Inter-Asian Cultural Expo | Baltimore, MD | 2022–2024

- Produced concerts featuring Asian composers and interdisciplinary collaborations

Website & Media

Visit: www.hasegawaryo.com for conducting videos, repertoire list, and upcoming engagements.

Ryo Hasegawa, Conducting Videos

- Performance: Dvorak Symphony No. 9: [LINK](#)
- Performance: Louise Farrenc, Overture No. 2: [LINK](#)
- Performance: Brahms Academic Festival Overture: [LINK](#)
- Rehearsal: Gershwin An American In Paris: [LINK](#)