

# Yale University

## President's Public Service Fellowship

### Proposal for Fellowship Placement Summer 2024

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#### Organization information

<i>Name of organization</i>	New Haven Symphony Orchestra
<i>Full street address</i>	4 Hamilton Street, Floor 2, New Haven, CT 06511
<i>Website or link to social media page</i>	<a href="http://www.NewHavenSymphony.org">www.NewHavenSymphony.org</a>

#### PPSF Fellow's direct supervisor

<i>Name</i>	Elaine C. Carroll
<i>Title</i>	Chief Executive Officer
<i>Cell phone number</i>	914.439.7919
<i>E-mail address</i>	<a href="mailto:ECarroll@NewHavenSymphony.org">ECarroll@NewHavenSymphony.org</a>

**What is the best way for prospective student applicants to contact you with questions about your proposal?**

- Send an e-mail to set up a 15-meeting phone call to discuss

**Placement dates (8-11 weeks between Tuesday, May 28, 2024 through Friday, August 9, 2024)**

Tuesday, May 28 - Friday, August 9, 2024

**Are placement dates flexible? Are there any dates on which your Fellow must work?**

Yes, the dates are flexible. They would be encouraged, but not required, to attend a June performance at the International Festival of Arts and Ideas

**Proposed work schedule (*work week should equal (and not exceed) 37.5 hours per week*)**

The NHSO administrative office is open 9:00 - 5:30, Monday-Friday with a one hour lunch break. A flexible schedule outside of these hours is also available.

**If a hybrid schedule is offered at your site, please describe:**

We can arrange for remote access and off-hours work as needed. The Fellow must spend some time in the office with their supervisor, but the detailed arrangement is flexible.

**Organization description**

New Haven Symphony Orchestra's vision is to inspire, delight, challenge, and connect diverse audiences and communities through the power of live music. NHSO enriches Connecticut's cultural landscape through exceptional performances and education programs that are accessible to residents from all walks of life. Innovative programming offered statewide inspires deeper audience engagement and meaningful artistic and educational collaborations which increase the reach and impact of the Symphony. Authentic commitments to diversity, equity, inclusion, and belonging move the NHSO to provide representation that reflects the richly diverse communities we serve in all areas of Symphony leadership. The fourth oldest orchestra in the US, NHSO entertained New Haven audiences since 1895. Its concerts and education services reach an average of 40,000 listeners each season. An anti-racist organization, NHSO fights hate, racism, and bigotry in all forms through our words, music, and actions.

**Write a 1-2 sentence summary of the work that the Fellow would be conducting.**

Two projects to choose from: 1) Expand on the accessibility work launched by a prior Fellow to achieve our goal of making concerts easier to navigate, especially for the blind or those with mobility limitations and more welcoming to the neurodivergent OR 2) work with New Haven Symphony Orchestra staff and Music Director to create a community engagement plan inviting new audiences to NHSO's September 2024 Opening Night performance of Beethoven's Symphony No.9.

**Write a more complete description of the specific project you propose and list the duties/outcomes expected of the Fellow.**

Project #1: Accessibility Work Expansion--The NHSO is committed to improving accessibility for all concertgoers. Last summer, a Fellow implemented recommendations made by accessibility consultant Maggie Rose Austen designed to improve accessibility on our website, at in-person concert experiences, and for training our house managers. He was able to continue this work throughout the 2023-2024 season thanks to funding from Yale's Office of New Haven Affairs and the Divinity School. Having a dedicated accessibility staffer has allowed us to make progress past compliance with the Americans with Disability Act minimums and toward a goal of offering an easily accessible experience to a large and diverse audience that fosters a true sense of belonging for people of all abilities. The Yale Presidential Public Service Fellow would assist the NHSO in making the additional recommended changes from our accessibility audit, including visiting different concert venues to create a comprehensive resource for people with challenges (distances to travel, any obstacles, loud noises to expect, etc.). This detailed work would provide information on improvements and also be made available through our website for audience members planning their trip. Finally, the Fellow would conduct surveys to gather feedback and insight from the disabled community.

Project #2: In the 2024-2023, the NHSO will introduce to the New Haven community our next Music Director Perry So. Maestro So intends to infuse his tenure with programs inspired by New Haven, featuring New Haven artists, and music of special relevance to our community. The showcased work on his Opening Night program will be Beethoven Nine, one of the most popular and accessible works of classical music. He wants to recruit a choir of 300 voices that represent our richly diverse City. The members of the Yale Glee Club will "anchor" the chorus and local singers will be able to work with Maestro So in preparing and performing the work. With a recruitment plan in place and underway, the Fellow would also develop a community engagement plan to reach new audiences through their contacts and the NHSO's network of community partners. The Fellow would be welcome, but not required, to join in the September choral performance if they participate in rehearsals.

**List any specific skills/experience required for the project**

Basic computer literacy, enthusiasm for learning, and a collegial attitude. The NHSO is an Equal Opportunity Employer and anti-racist organization that fights hate, racism, and bigotry in all forms through our words, music, and actions. We strongly encourage non-traditional candidates to apply.

**Additional requirements**

The accessibility project would benefit from off-site visits, but we can arrange transportation if the Fellow does not have access to a car. Office parking is free. Mileage and parking fee reimbursement is available.

**Briefly describe any work that Yale PPSF Fellows and/or Yale students have done with your organization.**

During summer 2022, the NHSO worked with a Fellow who reviewed NHSO's programs to determine which had the best potential for digital distribution. He evaluated their suitability for transfer to a digital platform, assessed potential audience involvement, and devised a detailed business plan. During summer 2023, NHSO has the benefit of two Fellows. One implemented the recommendations of an accessibility audit in order to make concerts easier to navigate, especially for the blind or those with mobility limitations. He is continuing his work throughout the 2023-2024 season. The other represented NHSO on City Hall's efforts to involve arts and culture organizations in planning a summit on Arts Administration and Cultural Equity, with a goal of inspiring more diverse people to consider jobs in the arts industry. The Fellow drafted a Request for Proposals that will award a \$50k grant to a local arts organization.