

Nominee: Laura Kelly  
Category: Leadership

Laura Kelly has served as the Executive Director of the Flagstaff Symphony Orchestra (FSO) for the past three years. Her leadership, at the helm of one of Flagstaff's oldest and most important artistic institutions, has been essential to the health and viability of FSO.

She has stabilized the finances of the organization, which has long suffered deficits and financial difficulties, so that FSO can focus on its mission. Kelly also reaches out more than any of her shorter-termed predecessors to involve the community in what FSO does.

Partnerships between FSO and community organizations like Flagstaff Friends of Traditional Music, the Museum of Northern Arizona, and several local schools.

Education has become a major initiative of FSO under Kelly's leadership. FSO's many education programs are outlined here:

<http://flagstaffsymphony.org/community.php>.

Further, Kelly provides leadership to other non-profit Directors in the community. She helped to launch a program two years ago that brought together Directors and board members of non-profits to informally share stories and provide uplift to one another during a bleak time: the beginning of the recession.

While all of this is important, perhaps Kelly's biggest accomplishment has been that she serves as a steady, calming influence upon an organization that has lacked in steady leadership in recent years. FSO's many supporters, partners and musicians perhaps care a little too much at times, which places significant burden on the Director to shoulder their concerns with grace and support. Kelly has not only provided this, but has also remained firm in her vision of a symphony that not only provides great music, but serves the community as a whole.

FSO won the Viola Award for Organization of the Year under Kelly's leadership in 2010. The many concerts in the regular series of FSO are one thing, but Kelly has been integral in keeping the free July 4th concert at Pine Mountain Amphitheater ongoing each year.

Further accomplishments include FSO's education programs:

<http://flagstaffsymphony.org/community.php>

Kelly's great motivation to bring music to children and adults in the Flagstaff community has been untiring. She often collaborates with organizations such as MNA and Flagstaff Friends of Traditional Music. Above I have outlined in greater detail the impact that the educational programs that Kelly has instigated have brought to Flagstaff.

Please visit these websites for more information about Laura Kelly:

<http://flagstaffsymphony.org>

[http://azdailysun.com/entertainment/music/article\\_b99b2764-66f5-52ca-9768-5014690976f1.html](http://azdailysun.com/entertainment/music/article_b99b2764-66f5-52ca-9768-5014690976f1.html)