



ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

POSITION SUMMARY

Amelia Island Chamber Music Festival is seeking an Artistic Director to lead the artistic programs and initiatives of the organization. The Artistic Director will be responsible for planning vibrant and varied concerts utilizing world-class chamber music musicians while collaborating with other staff and the Board of Directors to implement the Festival's mission and vision.

The Artistic Director should be collaborative, have excellent communication skills, vast knowledge of classical music, active relationships with classical music artists and stakeholders, and a vision that helps guide the Festival to new artistic achievements and growth.

KEY RESPONSIBILITIES

- Artistic Planning and Programming
 - With support from the Executive Committee and Executive Director, design and implement a cohesive season proposal in which the full concert series, fundraising events, educational and civic engagement programs, and master classes are conceived as a unified artistic vision, then negotiate and engage all performers to execute that vision.
 - Maintain and evolve the artistic identity of the Festival in a way that respects its legacy.
 - Develop and sustain strong working relationships with individual artists, ensembles, and artist managers.
 - Identify special projects to advance the artistic reputation of the Festival.
- Artist Relations
 - Serve as the primary liaison between the Festival and its artists and their agents or managers before, during, and after each concert.
 - Initiate and maintain pre-concert communication to coordinate rehearsal schedules, technical requirements, and logistical details.
 - Be present at rehearsal and concert venues to ensure artists are comfortable, prepared, and have everything they need.

- Follow up with artists and managers after performances to sustain relationships that serve the Festival's long-term artistic goals.
- Audience Development
 - Approach programming with the Festival's existing audiences and broader community in mind, with attention to deepening engagement with current attendees while expanding access to new ones.
 - Strengthen audience development through thoughtful programming and community engagement initiatives, without alienating longtime patrons.
- Public Presence and Organizational Leadership
 - Alongside the Executive Director, serve as a public face of the Amelia Island Chamber Music Festival.
 - Deliver remarks, introductions, and speeches at concerts and events; participate in outreach and promotional activities that advance the Festival's visibility.
 - Represent the organization at community, civic, and professional events.
 - Engage in public relations opportunities and give interviews to local, regional, and national media.
- Donor Relations
 - Build and maintain personal relationships with the Festival's donors, engaging them at concerts, events, and through direct communication.
 - Alongside the Executive Director and Board of Directors, identify, cultivate, and solicit donors to meet fundraising goals, and actively work to introduce new supporters to the Festival.
 - Serve as an articulate and passionate spokesperson for the organization's mission and impact.
 - When requested, provide written artistic statements for grant applications.
- Board Relations
 - Submit monthly reports to the Board of Directors.
 - When requested, attend Board meetings in person or via video conference.
 - When requested, participate in strategic planning sessions.
- Performance
 - Participate in the Festival as Artistic Director, concert host, and, if appropriate, perform on a limited basis.
- Other Festival Responsibilities
 - When requested, provide written program notes.
 - Provide input on artistic planning timelines and production, and coordinate contracts in partnership with the Executive Director.

THE CANDIDATE

- The ideal candidate will demonstrate:
 - Deep curatorial expertise in the chamber music ecosystem and the ability to translate artistic vision into effective, creative programming.

- Strong, timely written and verbal communication skills; a persuasive and compassionate communication style with excellent interpersonal instincts; experience with public speaking.
- An action-oriented and adaptable approach to leadership; the ability to work well on a team and to complete work independently.
- A commitment to artistic excellence balanced with strategic thinking and operational awareness.
- Understanding and respect for the history of the Amelia Island Chamber Music Festival and the unique nature of its location, community, and audience.
- The ability to foster a culture of collaboration and joy among musicians, board members, staff, volunteers, and all stakeholders.
- The ability to execute a full season within budgeting guidelines established by the Board of Directors.

REPORTING AND WORK ENVIRONMENT

The part-time Artistic Director reports to the President of the Board of Directors. Day-to-day work will flow primarily through the Artistic Director and Executive Director in close collaboration, with the Board President serving as the ultimate point of authority for both. Effective communication among all three is essential to the success of this role.

Work may be completed remotely, unless the Artistic Director is on-site for a concert, donor event, civic engagement event, board meeting, or other Festival activity.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The Amelia Island Chamber Music Festival is governed by a Board of Directors consisting of up to 15 voting members. Many board members are working members who volunteer in critical roles, including coordinating volunteers, coordinating artist housing, donor cultivation, production, and more. Having a positive working relationship with board members is a must.

COMPENSATION

This is a part-time position structured to accommodate candidates who wish to continue pursuing their own artistic careers alongside their work with the Festival. The position is governed by a contract renewed every two years. Compensation is flexible and begins at \$60,000. All travel and lodging will be provided or reimbursed.

TO APPLY

Please send a resume or CV, cover letter, and two references by email to AICMFjob@aicmf.org with the subject line "Artistic Director Position – LAST NAME"
Applications must be received by August 31, 2026.

In your cover letter, please answer the following three questions:

1. Who are some artists you would want to program for the Amelia Island Chamber Music Festival in your first two years and why?
2. Please describe a past educational initiative you initiated and the impact it had on the community.
3. The Festival's audiences and community are as distinctive as the island itself. How would you get to know them, and how might what you learn shape your artistic programming decisions?

Applicants selected for an interview will be contacted for an initial conversation via video conference. Finalists will be invited for an in-person interview and to spend a couple of days on Amelia Island. Interviews will take place in August, September, and October 2026.

MISSION AND HISTORY

It is the mission of the Amelia Island Chamber Music Festival to:

1. Present the world's greatest musical artists in chamber music concerts of classical and alternative genres for diverse audiences.
2. Offer music education to concert attendees, students, and aspiring young musicians.
3. Promote local businesses and tourism by attracting music lovers from Nassau County, northeast Florida, and beyond.

The Amelia Island Chamber Music Festival was founded in 2001 by Christopher Rex, then principal cellist of the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra and a frequent visitor to Amelia Island. Having just celebrated its 25th Anniversary season, the Festival has grown from an inspired island idea into a nationally recognized chamber music festival, known for presenting extraordinary artists in intimate and memorable settings throughout Amelia Island.

Each season, the Festival brings world-class musicians to the community for performances that span classical masterworks, contemporary voices, and genre-crossing collaborations.

Over the years, audiences have experienced performances by Yo-Yo Ma, Itzhak Perlman, Hilary Hahn, Pinchas Zukerman, Joshua Bell, Chick Corea, Béla Fleck, Chris Thile, Emanuel Ax, Wynton Marsalis, Anne-Sophie Mutter, Ricky Skaggs, Renée Fleming, and many others. The acclaimed Dover Quartet has served as the Festival's first quartet-in-residence, reflecting the organization's commitment to both exceptional artistry and meaningful, long-term artistic relationships.

Rather than presenting concerts only in traditional theaters or concert halls, the Festival brings chamber music into distinctive Amelia Island spaces: churches, courthouses,

hotels, wedding venues, a civil-war-era fort, even local parks. These settings help create intimate, one-of-a-kind experiences that reflect the character and charm of the island.

Music education and community engagement have been central to the Festival's mission since its founding. Through the Christopher Rex String Seminar, masterclasses, school performances, free family programming, outreach concerts, and opportunities for aspiring young musicians, the Festival makes great music accessible to audiences of all ages while helping nurture the next generation of artists.

The Festival's success is made possible by generous donors, sponsors, grant-making partners, and a dedicated corps of volunteers whose support sustains both artistic excellence and community access. As the Amelia Island Chamber Music Festival looks beyond its 25th anniversary season, it remains committed to enriching Nassau County and the broader Northeast Florida region through extraordinary performances, meaningful education, and shared cultural experiences.

ABOUT AMELIA ISLAND

Amelia Island, Florida, the southernmost of the Sea Island barrier islands along the southeastern coast, is a place of rare character. Thirteen miles long and two miles wide, it is defined by pristine Atlantic beaches to the east and sweeping salt-marsh estuaries to the west, with a historic downtown that reflects more than 400 years of layered history. Though it feels removed from the pace of modern life, the island sits just 30 minutes from Jacksonville, making it genuinely accessible. It is this combination of natural beauty, intimate scale, and a community with deep cultural roots that gives the Festival its distinctive character and its performances their sense of occasion.