Crane Symphony Orchestra

The Crane Symphony Orchestra is the second oldest college orchestra in the United States, and in its long legacy, students at Crane have worked with legendary conductors and musicians, such as Nadia Boulanger, Sarah Caldwell, Aaron Copland, Howard Hanson, Gunther Schuller, and Robert Shaw, to name a few.

The mission for Crane Symphony Orchestra is not only pursuing a high-standard of performance. We are also committed to providing students with an excellent ensemble experience as part of the education for future music teachers, performers, scholars, composers, and music industry leaders.

The Crane Symphony Orchestra performs a wide range orchestral repertoire, from baroque to contemporary music. Every year, the CSO performs four full symphonic concerts and two concerts in collaboration with the Crane Chorus. In 2016, the Crane Symphony Orchestra and the Crane Chorus performed at Carnegie Hall with guest conductor Duain Wolfe (director of the Chicago Symphony Chorus), and in 2012, the two ensembles took the stage at the Avery Fisher Hall in New York City, performing Verdi’s Requiem. In 2013, under guest conductor Christof Perick, in collaboration with American Boychoir, Crane Symphony Orchestra and Crane Chorus performed Benjamin Britten’s monumental War Requiem. Other recent guest conductors include JoAnn Falletta, Larry Rachleff and Joseph Flummerfelt.

The Orchestra also tours regularly. Recently, CSO performed at the NYSSMA Winter Conference, on Long Island, and in the Albany area. In 2020, the orchestra will perform with the Crane Chorus at the Saratoga Performing Arts Center under the baton of guest conductor Maestra Sara Hicks.

Crane Chamber Orchestra

The chamber orchestra concentrates on the study and performance of repertoire written for this orchestration, ranging from baroque to contemporary music.

Crane Opera Orchestra

Instrumental students at Crane have opportunity to join the opera orchestra, which performs fully-staged operatic works with the Crane Opera Ensemble. The size of the ensemble depends on specific work being performed, which is drawn from Baroque through contemporary operatic and musical theatre repertoire.

The Crane Opera Ensemble was the winner of the 2015 and 2003 (Division 3), and co-winner of the 2009 (Division 2) National Opera Association Collegiate Production Competitions. The spring 2010 production of L’Enfant et les Sortilèges was awarded first place in the American Prize in Operatic Per-
formance competition while the 2017 pro-
duction of *The Tender Land* was awarded 3rd
place (both in the College/University Divi-
sion).

In 2018, Crane premiered *Mayo*, a new
opera Crane commissioned from Tom
Cipullo through the Domenic J. Pellicciotti
Opera Composition Prize. A new opera
commission and premiere is in the works for
2024.

Auditions
Students wishing to perform in the orches-
tras must take a placement audition, sched-
uled during the first two days of each semes-
ter. Each studio faculty administers their
own auditions, and in consultation with en-
semble directors, determines ensemble
placements and seating. Information such as
time, location and materials needed for au-
ditions may be obtained from the respective
studio teacher. While auditions for Crane
performing ensembles are open to all stu-
dents, the audition process is rigorous and
competitive.

Faculty
Adrian Slywotzky is the Director of Orches-
tras at the Crane School of Music. An avid
exponent of contemporary music, Prof. Sly-
wotzky directed the world premiere of Hugo
Kauder’s magnum opus, the opera Merlin.
He is a prizewinner of the Atlantic Coast In-
ternational Conducting Competition (Portu-
gal, 2016) and the Audite International Con-
ducting Competition (Poland, 2017). He was
the founding conductor of the Yale Medical
Symphony Orchestra, and from 2007 to 2010
music director of the New Haven Chamber
Orchestra. He served as Associate Director
of Orchestras at the University of Michigan
from 2019 to 2022. He has served as Associa-
te Conductor and Artistic Advisor of the
Boston Youth Symphony Orchestras, as
teaching fellow for the Harvard-Radcliffe Or-
chestra, and on the faculty of the Conduc-
tors Retreat at Medomak. He was conductor
of the Greater New Haven Youth Orchestra
for 2008-2010. Professor Slywotzky holds
degrees from the University of Michigan and
the Yale School of Music.

Apply to Crane
You will find complete information about
Crane, SUNY Potsdam, and the application
and audition process on our website.