

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF UCHICAGO PRESENTS

BYALASEARCH LLC IS PLEASED TO ANNOUNCE THAT OUR FIRM HAS BEEN RETAINED BY THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO TO IDENTIFY CANDIDATES FOR THE POSITION OF EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF UCHICAGO PRESENTS. ABOUT THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO

Founded in 1890 by John D. Rockefeller, the University of Chicago is one of the world's leading universities and widely celebrated for its research impact, faculty, students, graduate programs, record of philanthropic support, and endowment growth. With a strong tradition of cross-disciplinary practice, intellectual curiosity, and creative energy, the University attracts internationally renowned scholars and artists, and contributes powerfully to a vibrant arts community on Chicago's South Side. The University's international engagement has expanded in recent years, increasing the opportunities for global artistic exchange. Today, the University has Global Centers in Beijing, Delhi, Hong Kong, London, and Paris. These centers afford us access to international artistic practices and communities – and to collaborative relationships and important exchanges that follow.

UChicago is home to over 2,800 faculty and academic personnel and more than 17,000 students. Faculty are organized in four divisions (humanities, biological sciences, physical sciences, social sciences), seven professional schools (business, divinity, law, medicine, molecular engineering, public policy, and social service administration). In addition to the academic units, the University boasts a medical center; a charter school with four campuses; a N-12 private school; a professional theater; two museums; and the nation's largest academic press.

ABOUT THE ARTS AT UCHICAGO

UChicago Arts encompasses the University's robust cultural scene where scholars, students, artists, and audiences converge, explore, and create. UChicago Arts maintains an ambitious suite of initiatives and



programs to enhance the cultural landscape at The University of Chicago and on Chicago's South Side, including Arts + Public Life; the Arts, Science & Culture Initiative; the Richard and Mary L. Gray Center for Arts and Inquiry; and the Reva and David Logan Center for the Arts. Joining academic departments and programs in the Division of the Humanities and the College, as well as professional organizations including Court Theatre, The OI Museum, Smart Museum of Art, Renaissance Society, and University of Chicago Presents, and more than 60 student arts organizations, UChicago Arts is forging an integrative model for practice, presentation, and scholarship.

For nearly 90 years, as a vibrant component of the Division of the Humanities, the University of Chicago Department of Music has been a leader in the study and creation of music, both historical and contemporary. With leading scholars in their fields, the department offers graduate degrees in composition, ethnomusicology, and music history and theory, as well as an undergraduate Bachelor of Arts degree in music. Beyond the classroom, the Music Department hosts a thriving co-curricular [Performance Program](#) which offers an exceptional environment for artistic inspiration and musical growth, and for students in the department, it serves as a complement to their academic studies. The Department is also home to the [Chicago Center for Contemporary Composition](#)—Chicago's home for the creation, performance, and study of contemporary classical music.

ABOUT UCHICAGO PRESENTS

One of Chicago's oldest and most distinguished concert series, UChicago Presents was founded in 1943 as the University of Chicago Chamber Music Series (now the Classic Concerts Series) with the mission of sharing world-class music through concerts and educational programs with audiences across Chicago and its surrounding suburbs. In its early seasons, the series brought many of the most significant figures of both performance and composition, such as Igor Stravinsky, Artur Schnabel, Isaac Stern, Arnold Schoenberg, and the Budapest Quartet, to the University's Mandel Hall. In addition to offering top-notch performances, guests of the series offered public master classes and lectures on music and composition, a legacy that continues to this day.

Typical recent seasons have included a wide range of concerts including chamber music, early music, jazz, new music presented with the Chicago Center for Contemporary Composition, concerts by



University resident artists, world music events, and other festivals and special events. More recently, UChicago Presents has begun to explore collaborations with other art forms. Programming includes collaborations with faculty in Music, Theater and Performance Studies (TAPS), Cinema and Media Studies, and other units such as the Center for the Study of Race, Politics and Culture, the Center for East Asian Studies, and the Center for the Study of Gender and Sexuality. UChicago Presents also collaborates with broader University arts initiatives, including Court Theatre, the Smart Museum of Art, and the Logan Center for the Arts.

PRIMARY ROLE

UChicago Presents (UCP) seeks a visionary Executive Director who can imagine and realize UChicago Presents' next chapter, with experience and standing in the performance and cultural world and a track record of excellence in leading community and educational programming. Reporting jointly to the Chair of the Department of Music and the Senior Advisor to the Provost for Arts, the Executive Director of UChicago Presents (UCP) will have the primary goal of assembling a comprehensive program of compelling performances. This program will continue the University's longstanding commitment to excellence in musical performance as well as its recent expansion into related fields, including dance, theater, and interdisciplinary performance. The Executive Director will cultivate relationships with faculty, particularly those from the Department of Music, Theater & Performance Studies (TAPS), and other academic units in the arts, integrating UCP into the University's curriculum and crafting a long-term vision that situates UChicago Presents as a destination for exhilarating performance and raising its profile on campus, in the local community, and among its peers.

As UCP's principal spokesperson and advocate, both at the University and in the community, the Executive Director will work with stakeholders to develop a creative strategic plan supported by partnerships with the University and with local, regional, and national arts and cultural organizations, and with artists and performers. The Executive Director will also have primary fundraising responsibilities for UCP, working in coordination with the Humanities Division, the Provost's office, and University staff.



The Executive Director will play a variety of roles in managing a diverse concert and performance program, ranging from full programming responsibilities in the case of the University's chamber music series, presenting concerts in partnership with the Chicago Center for Contemporary Composition (CCCC) and its faculty leadership, and developing and supporting new programs that reflect the full range of performance forms in the 21st Century while remaining responsive to the interests and expertise of faculty, staff, and students as well as the organization's supporters. The Executive Director will also guide the operations of a range of professional musical and performance events. The Executive Director will supervise a staff that currently includes one full-time position (the Director of Production and Education), and three part-time positions (the Marketing and Communications Manager, the Communications and Production Assistant, and the Graphic Designer), and will have overall programming responsibility for 25–30 professional concerts and arts events each season at the University of Chicago and other venues.

POSITION DESCRIPTION

Specific Responsibilities in the following areas include but are not limited to:

LEADERSHIP AND VISION

- Establish UCP as a visionary series, one that regularly presents the most exciting, compelling, and innovative work across a range of forms, encompassing music, dance, theater, and interdisciplinary performance.
- Work with the Chair of the Department of Music and the Senior Advisor to the Provost for Arts to formulate a strategic plan for UCP that reflects the Executive Director's curatorial vision, the University's goals, and recent developments in music and other performing arts.
- Set organizational priorities and create a framework for accountability supported by consistent messaging across all platforms, clearly articulating the mission of UChicago Presents to all constituencies.
- Reflect the University's commitments to innovation, diversity and inclusion.

PROGRAMMING

- Work closely with curricular units in the arts (e.g., Department of Music, TAPS, the Department of Visual Arts, etc.), and interested faculty in other units to develop programming with links to University curricula.
- Develop and program innovative seasons, building on current offerings in classical, world, jazz and experimental music while also reflecting the vitality, importance, and appeal of other art forms in contemporary performance.
- Cultivate relationships in various fields of music and other art forms as well as with relevant presenters across the US by attending conferences and convenings.
- Identify opportunities to which UCP can lend its name, support or audience.

EXTERNAL RELATIONS AND PROFILE-RAISING

- Cultivate deep professional relationships with faculty in the arts as well as other interested faculty in the Humanities Division and across campus to glean ideas and ambitions as well as pathways into the classroom and curricula.
- Raise the profile of UCP on campus and off as a destination for audiences to experience unique programming; promote UCP as a concert and performance resource to students, faculty and the public.
- Work with University Alumni Relations and Development and dedicated UCP and arts fundraisers to prospect, cultivate and solicit donors; maintain strong relationships with donors, including subscribers, community leaders and corporate partners to build UCP's donor base, to inspire transformational gifts and long-term funding.
- Work with grants and fellowship staff in the Humanities Division in the pursuit of foundation and other grants to support UCP performances and programming as well as participating in broader arts initiatives that lead to increased funding across the arts.
- Collaborate with the Director of the Department of Music's Performance Program to ensure coordinated scheduling between UCP and the various ensembles of the Performance Program to create broader music audiences and consumers.

MANAGEMENT AND ADMINISTRATION

- Supervise UCP staff (currently including the Director of Production and Education, the Marketing and Communications Manager, the Communications and Production Assistant, the Graphic Designer, and student staff); create opportunities for staff to contribute to program planning and execution.
- Alert staff to professional development opportunities and advocate for their participation to enhance their careers and contributions to UCP.
- In partnership with the Office of the Provost, the Humanities Division, and the Department of Music, provide overall management and administrative leadership needed to ensure that UCP is financially viable and cost-effective in its use of resources.
- Ensure compliance with University and Department of Music financial procedures, including maintaining and reconciling the UCP budget against University-generated ledgers.
- Supervise concert and program implementation including negotiating with venues, marketing, communications and ticket operations in partnership with colleagues across the University.
- Oversee all marketing and communications in coordination with the Marketing and Communications Manager. Work closely with the University, UChicago Arts, and Logan Center Communications staff to coordinate marketing efforts with the broader UChicago Arts initiative.

CRITICAL COMPETENCIES FOR SUCCESS

- Track record of designing and realizing innovative and robust arts programming to enable an organization to excel on campus and within the community.
- History of cultivating complex and cross-cutting partnerships (e.g., with artists, artists' representatives, colleagues, faculty and presenting organizations across a university, city and beyond).
- Successfully navigating a complex environment while collaborating with different partners.
- Commitment to building audiences and interest across diverse groups, communities and platforms, on a university campus, within the neighborhood where it resides, and across the region.
- Experience raising an organization's profile to increase attendance, fundraising, and relevance.

IDEAL SKILLS AND EXPERIENCE

- Minimum seven years of leadership experience in a music or related organization proximate to or within an academic institution and/or university environments.
- Expertise in or knowledge of at least one of the following: classical music, new music, jazz music, global music, experimental performance, and other forms of performance. In addition the ideal candidate will also be up to date on current trends in other live arts, such as dance, theater, and spoken word.
- Highly effective communicator and collaborator with a wide variety of constituencies, including artists, faculty, students, staff, community arts leaders, and diverse audiences.
- An effective fundraiser with a track record of relationship-building among a broad and diverse community of stakeholders.
- An understanding of the importance of digital technology and social media as platforms for today's concert-going audience with the potential to strengthen the visitor experience, enhance educational goals, and build momentum.
- Reflect the standards and imagination of the University of Chicago and an openness to interdisciplinary work combined with the capacity to attract top talent to perform.
- Eagerness to work in a university setting, understanding how music and performance bolster and support creative thinking across different academic disciplines; appreciation for the complementary relationship between artistic and scholarly activity.

OTHER CHARACTERISTICS

The next leader of UChicago Presents will be a visionary who can raise the organization's visibility on campus, within the community and with its audience, resulting in an increase to UCP's standing and reputation and an expansion of its audience.

The Executive Director must be a responsive partner who collaboratively creates priorities for a presenting organization and has the tenacity to realize those priorities. The individual will have a fluency with the academy and the capacity to see far beyond its borders, an openness to possibility and an



eagerness to program beyond their particular field of specialization. The Executive Director will have experience managing and programming for live and virtual audiences and will have identified ways to attract audiences during these unconventional times. The successful candidate will create programming to attract a city-wide audience to unique, high-caliber performances, distinguishing UCP from its peers.

The next leader will work closely with UCP staff and colleagues across campus to realize UCP's distinctive role within the community and the broader cultural landscape. The Executive Director will have the ability to shape UCP's institutional identity and brand internally and externally, elevate the organization's visibility and impact, and in collaboration with the staff, ensure that the organization is fiscally and administratively sound. The Executive Director is a consensus-builder who forms strong individual relationships with faculty and artists and engages local constituents. The Executive Director will be a sharp, sophisticated leader who can passionately and clearly articulate UCP's mission to external audiences and have the strategic capacity to design an organizational structure to successfully support UChicago Presents.

Please submit your application through the University of Chicago's career portal using posting [#JR20552](#).

The University of Chicago has retained ByalaSearch to support this recruitment. Additional information and nomination and application instructions are available in the position profile at the following link:

https://uchicago.wd5.myworkdayjobs.com/en-US/External/details/Executive-Director--University-of-Chicago-Presents_JR20552.

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KINDLY SEND NOMINATIONS OR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST TO:

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