

**JERI LYNNE JOHNSON**

**I am a creative entrepreneur whose performing, programming and consulting work is guided by my passion for using creativity and the arts to bridge cultures and connect communities.**

**CREATIVE WORK EXPERIENCE****BLACK PEARL CHAMBER ORCHESTRA, PHILADELPHIA  
FOUNDER, ARTISTIC DIRECTOR  
2008-PRESENT**

I established Black Pearl Chamber Orchestra as a model for the 21<sup>st</sup> century orchestra: a world-class music ensemble that makes a visible commitment to cultural diversity at every level of the organization and uses innovative community engagement activities and artistic collaborations with some of the city's most prominent cultural institutions to attract new audiences to classical music. The ultimate aim of Black Pearl is to take the entire community beyond spectatorship to participation in the artistic experience.

Accomplishments include

- ❖ Securing over \$2.2M in corporate, government, private foundation, and individual contributions.
- ❖ Designing compelling artistic projects and drafting successful federal grant applications that have received funding from the National Endowment for the Arts annually since 2009.
- ❖ Conceiving and designed three innovative community engagement concerts that each received a prestigious Knight Arts Challenge grant, making Black Pearl the only organization in the nation ever to win three such awards.
- ❖ Developing an organizational brand that attracts an age, socio-economic and culturally- diverse audience. Black Pearl concert audiences are 60% African-American and Latino- a unique audience demographic among classical music organizations not only in Philadelphia, but in the nation. BPCO audiences are also age and income diverse as 50% of our audience under the age of 50 and 34% report an annual income below \$50,000, 36% report an annual family income between \$50,000 and \$100,000 and 28% over \$100,000.
- ❖ Conceiving and performing programs that combine classical music with poetry, literature, visual arts, and technology in collaboration with leading Philadelphia cultural institutions including the Free Library of Philadelphia, Opera Philadelphia, WHYY, and the Barnes Foundation.
- ❖ Representing Black Pearl for numerous press briefings, television and radio interviews, and been invited to speak at the 2014 League of American Orchestras annual conference in Seattle, WA to discuss Black Pearl's innovative community engagement programming

**TAKI ALSOP CONDUCTING FELLOWSHIP  
2005-2006 FELLOW**

Conductor and 2005 MacArthur Fellow Marin Alsop founded the Fellowship in 2002 with the mission to foster and encourage women who are studying or training to be orchestral conductors. In addition to receiving mentorship from Maestra Alsop and making my debut with several orchestra around the world I volunteered to help grow the organization by

- ❖ Rebranding the organization by redesigning the website, designing a new logo and collateral materials
- ❖ Increasing the donor pool and securing additional fellowship funding by organizing a fundraising event
- ❖ Helping establish a national advisory board for the organization

**THE PHILADELPHIA ORCHESTRA,  
INTERIM VP, ARTISTIC PLANNING,  
June 1997-September 1997**

I oversaw the department of artistic planning in advance of the arrival of the incoming new VP of Artistic Planning. My duties and accomplishments in that three-month period include

- ❖ Restoring order to the orchestra’s main roster and programming schedule in preparation for the 1997-1998 season after the 64-day orchestra strike in 1996
- ❖ Renegotiating contracts for and rescheduling performances with guest artists whose appearances had been cancelled in 1996
- ❖ Finalizing new orchestra member contracts per the strike settlement.

**ARTISTIC WORK EXPERIENCE**

**CONDUCTING POSITIONS (selected)**

Music Director	Trowbridge Chamber Orchestra	2011-2016
Cover Conductor	Delaware Symphony Orchestras	2010-2011
Assistant Conductor	Chamber Orchestra of Philadelphia	2001-2004
Music Director	University of Chicago Chamber Orchestra	1999-2001

**GUEST CONDUCTING (selected)**

Baton Rouge Symphony Orchestra	January 2021
Santa Fe Opera	September 2020
The Philadelphia Orchestra	January 2013
Colorado Symphony Orchestra	April 2006
Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra (UK)	February 2006
Weimar Staatskapelle (Germany)	November 2005
Chamber Orchestra of Philadelphia	November 2004

**CONSULTING WORK EXPERIENCE**

**DEI ARTS CONSULTING, LLC  
PRINCIPAL  
2015-PRESENT**

DEI Arts Consulting offers creative, strategic and operational consulting and advisory services that are informed by considerations of diversity, equity and inclusion and tailored for the arts and culture sector. Our work for creative businesses, organizations and nonprofits has helped catalyze organizational transformation from the inside out and ranges from aligning institutional brand, mission and vision to designing initiatives that target specific markets and projects that explore new possibilities for future growth by expanding organizational ties to the community.

I established DEI Arts to offer a variety of consulting, creative and advisory services for corporations, non-profit cultural and community service organizations that include innovative leadership development and team building exercises, diverse audience development and community engagement, institutional messaging, mission and vision development organizational strategy, and collaborative program design. Examples of my work with clients and my services are below.

- ❖ **Impact Effect** Impact Effect is an innovative Canadian technology platform for effectively quantifying and measuring the impact of philanthropic and social service organizations. In 2016 I used my domain knowledge of the non-profit industry to perform corporate development services, including mission and vision development, strategic planning, and the formation of strategic partnerships.

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- ❖ **Comcast/NBC Universal** In 2015 I lead a unique afternoon program that used the art of conducting an orchestra to foster effective leadership and innovative thinking for more than 100 of Comcast's diversity and inclusion managers from across the United States.
- ❖ **Philadelphia Chamber Music Society** In 2008, PCMS was seeking a way to attract a younger and more diverse audience for their world-class chamber music series. I provided a strategy, action plan and programming ideas for connecting with local civic groups that serve the African-American and Latino communities in Philadelphia.
- ❖ **Foundations, Inc.** In 2008, Foundations, Inc.- a national non-profit organization working with schools and communities to build educational capacity and improve children's educational experience - was looking to help stem the tide of chronic truancy for Philadelphia's most vulnerable students. I created the mission, vision and business plan, development strategy and programming for an innovative arts and technology education center established in 2009 that serves hundreds of students each year.
- ❖ **Small but Mighty Arts** In 2013, Small But Mighty Arts, an organization that connects artists to resources, was looking to reorganize and find a better way to serve their constituents. I helped the founder craft a new vision and mission for the organization and a more effective strategy for attracting new financial and organizational resources.
- ❖ **Urban Erie Community Development Corporation** In 2014, the Urban Erie Community Development Corporation was looking for new ways to connect corporations and local government in an effort to spark wide-spread economic development for the city of Erie's low-income and immigrant communities. I helped create a strategic initiative that combined the arts, literacy, and job readiness for a program educating adults and preparing them for employment and wrote a grant that garnered \$550,000 in new funding for the organization.

## **EDUCATION**

UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO; MA in Music History and Theory; 2005  
Benjamin E. Mays Fellow

WELLESLEY COLLEGE; BA in Music, BA in Religion; 1993  
Awards include: Andrew W. Mellon Minority Undergraduate Fellow  
Anne Louise Barrett Fellow  
Billings Prize for Excellence in the Study of Music

## **SELECTED VOLUNTEER ACTIVITIES and AFFILIATIONS**

### **Current**

The Philadelphia Award, Trustee  
Philanthropi Charitable, Board Member  
The Women's Philharmonic, Advisory Board  
League of American Orchestras- Professional Member

### **Previous**

Greater Philadelphia Cultural Alliance - Board Member,  
The Recording Academy- Philadelphia Chapter - Board Member  
National Endowment for the Arts – Music Panelist, Grant Review  
New Music USA – Panelist, Grant Review,  
Einstein Healthcare Network - Board of Overseers