

PORTILLO FEST *by Vibra Clásica*

APPLICATIONS 2027 ASSISTANT CONDUCTOR

High in the mountain range, where the air is thinner and the silence deeper, music happens in a different way. Every January, Festival Portillo brings together young musicians before Laguna del Inca to experience what no classroom can teach: the electricity of a rehearsal that suddenly breathes as one body, the mountain giving back the sound, the certainty of being inside something unrepeatable. At the heart of this experience is the Assistant Conductor: a week immersed in the repertoire of chamber and orchestral music, working side by side with maestra Alejandra Urrutia and the artistic team.

FACULTY

Alejandra Urrutia, Artistic and Music Director

Strings, Cavani String Quartet (United States)

- Annie Fullard, Violin I
- Jeremiah Blacklow, Violin II
- Samuel Rosenthal, Viola
- Kyle Price, Cello

Winds

- Beatrice Ovalle, Flute (Chile)
- Federico Curti, Oboe (Uruguay)
- David Griffiths, Clarinet (Australia)
- Pedro Salcedo, Bassoon (Colombia)
- Gabriel Betancur, French Horn (Colombia)

Piano

- Eugenio Urrutia-Borlondo (Chile)

Leadership and Coaching

- Caroline Ward (Australia)

Body Work

- Rodrigo Abett

APPLICATION

Requirements

- Open to foreigners and Chileans, age 18 and up, no upper age limit
- Availability for the entire duration of the festival

Timeline

- Applications: August 21 to September 20, 2026 (USD60.00)
- Notification of acceptance of the three finalists: September 28, 2026
- Meeting with the 3 finalists: October 3, 2026
- Acceptance notification: October 5
- Applicant's confirmation of participation: October 19, 2026
- Festival duration: January 16–27, 2026 (note: this date appears to conflict with the 2027 heading -worth double-checking the original)

How to apply?

- Go to and fill out the form [HERE](#).
- Submit a video recording with orchestra, piano, or chamber group, no more than 3 years old (September 2022 onward). The video must be at least 10 minutes long.
- It's very important that the conductor is clearly visible in the recording -the shot must be frontal.

Festival Portillo 2027 Orchestra Repertoire

- Bedřich Smetana, The Moldau
- L.V. Beethoven, Symphony No. 6 "Pastoral" in F Major, Op. 68

Responsibilities and duties of the assistant conductor

- Assisting in rehearsals, score preparation, conducting selected pieces, and other relevant tasks
- Working closely with the artistic director of PortilloFest, maestra Alejandra Urrutia
- Providing support by attending rehearsals, taking notes, and offering feedback
- Assist with the logistics for the PortilloFest Orchestra concerts
- Participating in educational and outreach activities and working with local youth orchestras
- Leading sectional rehearsals as needed

Scholarship Benefits

The scholarship will give an assistant conductor the opportunity to:

- Work closely with the artistic director
- Work with distinguished faculty members
- Gain conducting experience by preparing and leading sectional rehearsals
- Participate in educational activities with local musicians and youth orchestras

RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Once you have been pre-accepted, the next step is to take part in a meeting where the mutual agreements and commitments will be discussed; if you accept these, you will be definitively accepted.

Assistant's rights

- The assistant's scholarship is CLP \$5,500,000 (USD 5,500). This scholarship includes classes, lodging, meals, and transportation to and from Santiago.
- PortilloFest 2026 begins Saturday, January 16 at 6:00 PM, so a bus will depart at 2:00 PM from Renato Sánchez 4270, Las Condes, Santiago.
- The festival will close with three final concerts: the first at Hotel Portillo on Sunday, January 24; then Monday, January 25 at the Teatro Municipal de Viña del Mar; Tuesday, January 26 at a venue to be confirmed; and Wednesday, January 27 at the Gran Sala Sinfónica Nacional (this program is subject to change).

Assistant's responsibilities

- Arrive on time to catch the bus on Saturday, January 16. If for any reason the bus is missed, the assistant must reach Hotel Portillo by their own means.
- The scholarship does not cover travel costs to the city of Santiago, nor medical insurance.
- Arrange medical insurance, which must be sent once participation in the Festival is confirmed.

Once the festival has begun, the following is required:

Because this festival is committed to excellence at every level, there are certain expectations we believe are necessary to meet that goal:

- Attend all classes and be punctual at all times.
- Attend all concerts and conversatorios (talks).
- During the festival period, January 16–27, no alcohol or drugs of any kind may be consumed. If this occurs, it will be understood that the person has chosen not to continue in the festival, and they will be taken to the bus terminal in Los Andes -or in whichever city concerts or the residency are taking place -where they may take a bus back to Santiago or elsewhere. In this case, the festival will not cover transportation costs.
- When applying, make sure that, in addition to agreeing with the artistic and musical proposal, you also agree to the Festival's rights and responsibilities.