



# ALLISON VULGAMORE

## President and Chief Executive Officer

---

*Biography, January 2012*

Allison Vulgamore, president and chief executive officer of The Philadelphia Orchestra Association (POA), possesses a keen ability to lead within complex situations and a deep passion for the transformative power of orchestral music. Appointed in October 2009 and assuming this role in 2010, Vulgamore has served during an unprecedented period in the history of the Orchestra. Marked by critical decisions aimed at regaining the organization's long-term fiscal health while also maintaining the artistic excellence of this world-renowned ensemble, Vulgamore's tenure has shown her to be a thoughtful, strategic, and collaborative leader with a gift for navigating organizational challenges with grace.

One of her most important decisions to date focused on securing the artistic future of the organization. In June 2010, Vulgamore recruited Yannick Nézet-Séguin as the next music director of The Philadelphia Orchestra—and only the eighth music director in its 112 year history. Further, she announced that Charles Dutoit would become conductor laureate beginning in the 2012-13 season, affirming a 30-year relationship between the orchestra and the acclaimed maestro. Vulgamore also launched a data-driven, staff-led, and cross-constituent advised strategic planning process, funded by the William Penn Foundation, a leader in the Philadelphia philanthropic community. She continues to work with the Board of Directors and the community to successfully bring the Orchestra through its financial reorganization.

Prior to The Philadelphia Orchestra Association, Vulgamore served as President and CEO of the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra (ASO) for more than 15 years. The Atlanta Symphony's achievements under Vulgamore's leadership included unprecedented fundraising, earned revenue expansion and an inclusive culture of communication and cooperation among the diverse constituencies of the ASO organization. In 2000 Vulgamore and the ASO established the Creative Partnership, a groundbreaking leadership model that attracted Music Director Robert Spano and Principal Guest Conductor Donald Runnicles to Atlanta, sparking collaborations with today's leading composers, orchestras, artists, and recording companies. Vulgamore also diversified the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra's portfolio with the design, construction, and opening of North Atlanta's Verizon Wireless Amphitheatre at Encore Park, a 12,000-seat state-of-the-art venue.

Prior to her tenure in Atlanta, Vulgamore served in leadership roles with the New York Philharmonic and the National Symphony Orchestra. A trained musician and student of voice, she began her orchestra career in 1981 with The Philadelphia Orchestra following her graduation from the inaugural class of the American Symphony Orchestra League's Orchestra Management Fellowship Program. Today she is a leading mentor of the next generation of orchestra leadership.

Vulgamore's record of achievement is reflected in her many professional honors and associations. She joined the Board of Overseers of the Curtis Institute of Music in 2010 and is an honorary trustee of Oberlin College, where she received her Bachelor of Music degree.

Within the music industry, Vulgamore has chaired the Orchestra Management Fellowship Program of the League of American Orchestras and she continues to be a frequent contributor to faculty seminars on artistic planning, strategic planning, and governance culture. In 2006 she was accepted into the A.W. Mellon Foundation's Orchestra Forum Executive Leadership Development Program, a selective two-year program developed in conjunction with the Center for Creative Leadership and the Institute for Cultural Policy and Practice at Virginia Tech.