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Buffalo Philharmonic Orchestra welcomes new trustees and announces 2026-27 board officers

New and recently appointed trustees bring experience in finance, brand strategy, academic medicine, law and community leadership



BUFFALO, N.Y. — The Buffalo Philharmonic Orchestra has appointed three new members to its Board of Trustees for the 2026-27 season: Allison Brashear, MD, MBA; Michael R. Kenline, CFP®; and Christian LoGrasso. The orchestra also recognizes Rebecca McCauley, who joined the Board midway through the 2025-26 season.

The Board has also confirmed its 2026-27 officers. John Yurtchuk returns for a second term as chair, joined by Erin Peradotto Terhaar as vice chair, William Keefer as secretary and John Zak as treasurer.

Together, the new trustees bring expertise spanning wealth management, national brand strategy, health sciences leadership, law, risk management, real estate development and nonprofit governance. Their service will support the BPO's artistic mission, financial sustainability and work throughout the Western New York community.

"Allison, Michael, Christian and Rebecca each bring a distinctive combination of professional expertise, community involvement and enthusiasm for the BPO's mission," said John Yurtchuk, Chair of the BPO Board of Trustees. "Their perspectives will strengthen the Board as we support the orchestra's artistic excellence, deepen its connections throughout Western New York and plan responsibly for its future."

New and recently appointed trustees

Allison Brashear, MD, MBA, has served since 2021 as vice president for health sciences at the University at Buffalo, dean of the Jacobs School of Medicine and Biomedical Sciences and a tenured professor of neurology. Elected to the National Academy of Medicine in 2025, she previously served as dean of the UC Davis School of Medicine and chair of neurology at Wake Forest University School of Medicine, in addition to senior leadership roles at Indiana University. Brashear earned her medical degree from Indiana University and an MBA from Duke University's Fuqua School of Business, and completed executive fellowships with the Association of American Medical Colleges and Drexel University's Executive Leadership in Academic Medicine program.

Michael R. Kenline, CFP®, is a vice president and wealth management advisor at Merrill Lynch, where he advises high-net-worth families and entrepreneurs on wealth, tax and estate strategies. His career has included advisory and portfolio management roles with Citizens Bank, Georgetown Capital Group, LPL Financial and HSBC. Kenline served seven years as a trustee of the Westminster Economic Development Initiative, supporting the organization's growth and its \$12.5 million capital campaign. He earned degrees in economics and business administration from the State University of New York at Fredonia.

Christian LoGrasso is director of brand strategy and partnerships at Highmark Health, where he leads the organization's enterprise-wide brand initiatives and oversees a portfolio of strategic partnerships spanning sports, music and the arts, including Highmark Stadium, home of the Buffalo Bills, and the Highmark Mann Center for the Performing Arts. Prior to joining Highmark, LoGrasso held marketing and brand leadership roles at companies including HealthNow New York, Health New England and Valassis Communications. He previously served as board president of the Connecticut chapter of AIGA, the professional association for design. LoGrasso is a graduate of The Art Institute of Pittsburgh.

Rebecca McCauley joined the BPO Board midway through the 2025-26 season. A lifelong musician, she studied violin locally with Bernard Mandelkern and at The Juilliard School with Sally Thomas, and studied classical piano with Frieda Manes. Her professional career has spanned risk management, law and real estate development. She earned her law degree from the University at Buffalo School of Law and has held positions with the Environmental Protection Bureau of the New York State Office of the Attorney General, Serotte Law and the U.S. District Court for the Western District of New York. She also completed professional studies in risk management through the Insurance Institute of America and in alternative dispute resolution through Cornell University's School of Industrial and Labor Relations. McCauley has served numerous community organizations, including Shea's Buffalo, Explore & More – The Ralph C. Wilson, Jr. Children's Museum, Computers For Children and the University at Buffalo School of Law GOLD Group. She is co-founder and president of the Orchard Park Foundation for Academic Excellence and currently works in downtown Buffalo real estate development with a focus

on historic renovation.

Board leadership

The BPO extends its gratitude to outgoing Board Chair Scott Stenclik, whose three years of leadership culminated in one of the most significant periods of transition in the orchestra's recent history. The orchestra also recognizes departing trustees Robin G. Schulze, PhD, and Karen Sperrazza for their dedicated service and commitment to the BPO's mission.

"The BPO has benefited enormously from Scott's thoughtful leadership and from the dedicated service of Robin and Karen, and I am grateful for the foundation they helped build," said Jennifer Barbee, President and Executive Director of the BPO. "As John returns as Board Chair, I look forward to partnering with him and the full Board to advance the orchestra's artistic ambitions, expand its community impact and ensure a strong future for the BPO."

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About the Buffalo Philharmonic Orchestra

Founded in 1935, the Buffalo Philharmonic Orchestra is one of America's most distinguished orchestras and one of Western New York's leading cultural institutions. Under the artistic leadership of Music Director JoAnn Falletta since 1999, the BPO has achieved international recognition through acclaimed performances, touring, broadcasts, and an extensive recording legacy that includes multiple GRAMMY Awards.

The BPO performs at Kleinhans Music Hall, a National Historic Landmark renowned for its architecture and exceptional acoustics. Through its Classics, Pops, Rock, film, family, summer, and special-event programming, as well as a broad portfolio of education and community engagement initiatives, the orchestra brings the transformative power of music to audiences throughout Buffalo and Western New York.

For more information, visit bpo.org.



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