



**Show Selection Committee
Guidelines**

Revised: April 2026

General Purpose

The Show Selection Committee is responsible for choosing the three shows, and their alternates, that make up each Orpheus season.

Duties

- Develop a season of shows that has wide appeal to members and audiences alike, in accordance with the Board provided criteria. Shows are chosen within the context of Orpheus' general and specific artistic and financial goals.
- With respect to Orpheus' commitment to greater Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion on and off its stages, seasons should highlight underrepresented or marginalized groups, stories, and voices.
- Committee members identify, research, and evaluate potential shows to determine their marketability, appeal to our core audience, artistic merit, entertainment value, technical difficulty, cost, and risk. In addition, committee members will assess the capacity of Orpheus to execute selected shows with a level of quality that meets our high standards.
- Based upon these evaluations and discussions, the committee proposes a set of three primary shows along with three alternate shows.

Composition

The Show Selection Committee is comprised of eight (8) members selected by the Board of Directors:

- Committee terms are two (2) years, with four (4) positions becoming available each year. Committee members are restricted to two (2) consecutive terms, or four (4) consecutive years. A consecutive term is subject to re-application.
- The Board selects a Chair from the membership annually. The Chair is assigned for a two (2) year term as a committee member with one (1) year as Chair. They are limited to two consecutive terms as Chair. A consecutive term is subject to re-application.
- The Chair is the direct liaison to the Managing Director and Board and is a non-voting member of the committee.
- Committee members select a Secretary to record meeting minutes.
- Membership is drawn from members or volunteers of Orpheus Musical Theatre, with a mix of veteran and new members, preferably from different fields of theatre (e.g. performers, costumes, music/orchestra).

Timeline and Reporting

- The Board establishes season specific criteria for the committee and puts out a call for applications from the membership for a Chair in the spring of each year. The application should include, but is not limited to, Orpheus experience, artistic experience outside of Orpheus, areas of expertise (e.g. performance, technical, design, administrative), and leadership experience.
- Following the selection of the Chair, the Board puts out a call for applications from the membership. The application should include, but is not limited to, Orpheus experience, artistic experience outside of Orpheus, and areas of expertise (e.g. performance, technical, design, administrative).
- Committee members are selected by the Board.

- The committee meets monthly, or more should it see fit, between May and October.
- The Chair is expected to provide monthly status reports to the Board, indicating the committee's process and progress, such as how shows were selected for consideration. Status reports may include synopses and preliminary budgets of proposed shows and alternates.
- The final report of full season selection is due by the October Board meeting. The report will include the three (3) selected shows, their alternates, and placement in the season. The report should include reasons and rationale for selections, how they adhere to the Board provided criteria, synopses, and preliminary budgets for all six (6) selections. The report is submitted by the Chair to the Board via the Managing Director.
- The committee is encouraged to provide recommendations for future committees of shows that were supported but removed from consideration for any particular reason. (e.g. rights were not yet available, show did not fit well in the particular season, and so on). Likewise, the committee is encouraged to provide shows they do not recommend for consideration due to constraints and challenges they pose for Orpheus.
- The Chair is invited, but not required, to attend the monthly Board meetings to report in person.
- Upon Board approval, the job of the Show Selection Committee is complete for the remainder of the year, and the Managing Director may begin securing rights for selected shows as they become available from the rights holders, which is generally eighteen (18) months in advance of performance.

Resources

- The primary resource available to the Show Selection Committee is the Managing Director, who provides administrative support, industry knowledge, advises on marketability, and arranges for various items, such as perusal scripts and rights estimates.
- The committee is encouraged to consult with an orchestra contractor to determine orchestra costs.
- Orpheus holds a significant library of perusal scripts, as well as past Show Selection Committee, financial, and audience data.
- The committee should avail itself of expertise outside the committee membership with regards to evaluating technical aspects of potential shows.

Show Selection Committee 2027 – 2028 Season Criteria

1. **Family-Friendly Classics or Highly Recognizable IP:** The season must include at least one family friendly and/or well known/popular title that is recognizable to three generations of volunteers and audiences alike. The selection should prioritize casting that strongly features boy/teen male identifying performers. (Ages 8 – 18)
2. **Reproduction; A recently produced modern musical:** The season must include a re-production of a modern musical (defined as a work from 1995 – present) that was produced by Orpheus between 2008 – 2018.
3. **Estimated Cost Feasibility:** The overall season's cost for rights should not exceed \$105,000 USD (based on an average estimate of up to \$35,000/show). The overall orchestra costs should not exceed \$100,000 CDN and not exceed a total number of 36 between players and contractors. The committee is encouraged to seek out existing alternate orchestrations for larger shows.