

**Jennifer Teisinger**  
**Executive Director, Sun Valley Summer Symphony**  
**Biography**

Jennifer Teisinger has been executive director of the Sun Valley Summer Symphony, the largest privately funded free-admission orchestra in America, since September 2006.

Located in the mountain resort community of Sun Valley, Idaho, the Symphony brings more than 100 orchestra musicians from North America's most respected orchestras to form the Sun Valley Summer Symphony, which performs every July and August. Integral to the Sun Valley Summer Symphony are music education programs, including the year-round School of Music and Summer Music Workshops.



Photo: Caroline Woodham

Under Teisinger and the Board's leadership, the Symphony raised \$5 million in a capital campaign, surpassing its goal by \$2 million. Teisinger then represented the Symphony's interest in the design and construction of the world-class Sun Valley Pavilion, which was built primarily for the Symphony's use. Today the Symphony has a \$2.8 million budget – a 45 percent increase during her tenure – and a well-established endowment, created under Teisinger's direction.

Teisinger has increased the number of marquee artists who have performed with the Sun Valley Summer Symphony. They include Joshua Bell, Garth Brooks, Renée Fleming, Thomas Hampson, Audra McDonald, Itzhak Perlman, Jean-Yves Thibaudet, and Deborah Voigt. A strong believer in new works and commissions, Teisinger has steered seven world premieres of orchestral and chamber works. She reinvented the week of concerts preceding the Sun Valley Summer Symphony orchestra season, creating the *In Focus* Series that presents several small ensemble concerts, each pertaining to an overall artistic theme. This series has seen a 43 percent growth in attendance since it began in 2011.

In addition to inspiring artistic innovations, she has tripled the administrative staff. She oversaw the move of the Symphony offices into a new location, which it purchased in 2013.

Music education has been a major focus for Teisinger throughout her career. She ran the education programs at the San Jose Symphony and then managed the internationally recognized San Francisco Symphony Youth Orchestra. She put this experience to work in Sun Valley by elevating the reputation of the organization's School of Music and Summer Music Workshops. Teisinger spearheaded the innovative three-year partnership with the genre-defying trio Time for Three, called Project Tf3. Complete with its own fundraising campaign, Project Tf3 commissions the trio to write a new orchestral work each of three years, as well as to work with students in the Symphony's School of Music, Summer Music Workshops and local schools. Time for Three's first work commissioned by the Symphony, *Elevation: Paradise*, attracted one of the largest Sun Valley Summer Symphony audiences in the orchestra's history.

Prior to coming to Sun Valley, Teisinger served as executive director of the Vancouver Symphony Orchestra (Washington) and as San Francisco Symphony youth orchestra manager. She previously held various positions with the San Jose Symphony.

Teisinger has a bachelor's degree in music from the University of North Texas, Denton, and a master's degree in music from the Rice University Shepherd School of Music in Houston.

She has served on the youth orchestra division board of the League of American Orchestras as well as on the boards of the San Jose Youth Symphony and the Pioneer Montessori School in Ketchum, Idaho. She and her husband, Chris Gripkey, are the parents of two daughters. She enjoys a mountain lifestyle, including exercising, hiking, cross-country skiing, snowboarding, and dancing.

###