

Meet the WSYO Ensembles

WICHITA YOUTH SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

Founded in 1947, the Youth Symphony is recognized as the foremost youth orchestra in central Kansas and features top student musicians throughout central Kansas and northern Oklahoma. Members perform a wide variety of standard and emerging orchestral masterpieces, including full symphonies and works by living composers. The Youth Symphony performs two concerts at Century II Concert Hall each season and participates in an annual regional or national tour. Members meet in regular sectionals with professional community musicians and members of the Wichita Symphony Orchestra. The Youth Symphony is open to students entering grades 7 through 12.

WICHITA YOUTH WIND ENSEMBLE

The Wind Ensemble is comprised of a small group of elite wind, brass, and percussion players, and focuses on a “one-to-a-part” model. Repertoire performed by the Wind Ensemble is drawn from the pillars of the wind band literature, as well as newer works by living composers. The Wind Ensemble performs 2 public concerts each season at Century II Concert Hall.

WICHITA YOUTH CONCERT BAND

The Wichita Youth Concert Band consists of students in middle and high school with at least one year of band experience. The Youth Concert Band focuses on supplementing band experience in our students’ musical growth by rehearsing fundamental ensemble skills side by side with peers and prepares talented young musicians to advance into the Youth Wind Ensemble, Repertory Orchestra, and Youth Symphony.

WICHITA REPERTORY ORCHESTRA

The Repertory Orchestra provides members with the opportunity to perform orchestral masterpieces and contemporary film music. This intermediate orchestra prepares its members for musical participation in the Youth Symphony, and members also meet in regular sectionals with professional community musicians and members of the Wichita Symphony Orchestra. They perform two concerts at Century II Concert Hall each season. The Repertory Orchestra is open to students entering grades 7 through 12.

WICHITA YOUTH CHAMBER PLAYERS

The Youth Chamber Players is WSYO's first string orchestra, and it prepares young musicians to advance into the Repertory Orchestra as they grow and develop their skills. Members improve individual playing technique, develop ensemble skills, and gain valuable performing experience. They perform two concerts at Century II Concert Hall each season and participate in the WSYO Fall Educational Outreach Tour at local schools. The Youth Chamber Players is open to students entering grades 4 through 10.

WICHITA INTRODUCTORY STRING ORCHESTRA

Our youngest orchestra, the Introductory String Orchestra is WSYO's smallest string orchestra, and it prepares young musicians to advance into the Youth Chamber Players and Repertory Orchestra as they grow and develop their skills. Members improve individual playing technique, develop ensemble skills, and gain valuable performing experience in a concentrated, small group setting. They perform two concerts at Century II Concert Hall each season. The Introductory String Orchestra is open to students entering grades 4 through 9.