



## **Wichita Symphony Youth Orchestras 2024-2025 Youth Symphony Conductor**

### **Program Philosophy**

The Wichita Symphony Youth Orchestras (WSYO) represent the finest student musicians in South Central Kansas. Founded in 1947 as an educational project of the Wichita Symphony Orchestra, the Youth Orchestras Program provides a unique opportunity for talented school-age musicians to further their musical education through participation in one of six ensembles: the Youth Symphony, Repertory Orchestra, Youth Wind Ensemble, Youth Concert Band, Youth Chamber Players, and Introductory String Orchestra. Each Youth Orchestras student trains under professional conductors and coaches from the Greater Wichita community. Participation in these groups enables the members to become acquainted with and perform literature from the standard symphonic, wind ensemble, and string orchestral repertoire, and prepares them to be leaders in their school orchestra programs and future lives. Each ensemble presents a fall and a spring concert every season.

Each employee of the Wichita Symphony Youth Orchestras is an ambassador of the Youth Orchestras Program and the Wichita Symphony Society.

### **Conductor's Responsibilities**

- Repertoire
  - Select appropriate music for Youth Symphony for each concert based on the instrumentation of Youth Symphony membership.
  - Select seating audition excerpts for Youth Symphony in collaboration with each section's coach
  - Select specific seating audition excerpts for Youth Symphony to be heard at auditions.
- Rehearsals
  - Prepare the ensemble to perform at each concert.
  - Create a schedule for each rehearsal.
- Communications
  - Maintain regular communication with the Youth Orchestras Director regarding rehearsal schedule, student behavior/attendance issues, scheduling conflicts, and any other issues as they arise.
  - Send weekly communications to coaches and the Youth Orchestras Director no later than the Monday before each rehearsal. This should include the rehearsal schedule and any specific issues that need to be addressed in sectionals.

- Communicate rehearsal schedule to the Youth Orchestras Director and affected musicians no later than the Monday before each rehearsal (i.e. if low brass is not needed for the first hour, they should be notified of the rehearsal schedule by Monday the week before the rehearsal).
- Attendance
  - Be present at every rehearsal, dress rehearsal, runout performance, and concert.
  - No absences will be allowed for dress rehearsals and performances, nor the final regular rehearsal before dress rehearsals begin.
  - No more than two absences per semester will be allowed at regular rehearsals, and conductors must provide an appropriate substitute if they will be absent from a regular rehearsal.
  - Notify the Youth Orchestras Director no later than 4 weeks before a scheduled absence and include information about your substitute. Conductors will be responsible for paying subs directly.
  - Arrive no less than 10 minutes early to each rehearsal. Be available to greet students and answer questions before the start of rehearsal.
- Membership Auditions
  - Review and provide input regarding audition requirements and procedures, as necessary.
  - Ahead of membership auditions, provide the Youth Orchestras Director with a list of required personnel for your ensemble, based on instrumentation and scores for the upcoming season.
  - In collaboration with section coaches, determine appropriate excerpts for membership auditions.
  - Be available to adjudicate no less than 2 section auditions with other conductors and coaches, more if possible. Additional compensation for each section adjudicated will be provided at a rate of \$50 per day.
- Recruitment
  - Assist in the recruitment of students, particularly when specific positions need to be filled in the Youth Symphony.
  - Promote participation in WSYO through the sharing of social media, printed advertising materials, and word of mouth, etc.
- Youth Talent Auditions/Awards
  - Be present at the Youth Talent Auditions and collaborate with the two hired judges to select winners.
  - Work with the 1<sup>st</sup> place and/or 2<sup>nd</sup> place winners to prepare the winning piece(s) for the Spring Concert.
  - Provide input on students being considered for the James P. Roberson Award, McHugh Award, and other awards for seniors that are presented at the Spring Concert.
- Coaches
  - Communicate expectations regarding student learning outcomes to coaches.
  - Address any issues with coaches directly.
- Scheduling
  - Work with the Youth Orchestras Director to create future season calendars.
  - Plan activities for Youth Symphony (i.e. runout, retreat, etc.) for the 2025-2026 season in collaboration with the Youth Orchestras Director.

**Qualifications and Characteristics**

- Master's or Doctoral degree in Music, preferred.
- Experience working with students in an orchestral setting.
- Prior conducting experience required.
- Ability to inspire and motivate young musicians.
- Commitment to music education and community engagement.
- A vision for innovative and inclusive programming.

**Conductor's Compensation**

Compensation for the Youth Symphony Conductor will be pro-rated for beginning in the second half of the 2024-2025 season. Compensation for the Spring Semester will be \$2,700, to be paid in 3 monthly payments of \$900.00, based on the full season compensation of \$6,300.

This includes all regularly scheduled rehearsals beginning on January 5, 2025, and the final concert at Century II on March 8, 2025. Honorariums will be paid for additional services performed for community outreach.

Conductors will receive one ticket for the Spring Youth Orchestras Concerts as well as one complimentary ticket to Wichita Symphony Masterworks performances in the 2024-2025 season.

If a conductor has children in the program, tuition shall be waived for the first student (not including the library fee). All additional children will pay the full tuition and library fees.