



Wichita Symphony Youth Orchestras 2026-2027 Season: Percussion Coach

Program Philosophy

The Wichita Symphony Youth Orchestras (WSYO) represent the finest students 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: Youth Symphony, Repertory Orchestra, Youth Wind Ensemble, Youth Concert Band, Youth Chamber Players, and Introductory String Orchestra. Each WSYO student trains under professional Conductors and Coaches from the Wichita community. All WSYO Employees act as ambassadors for the Wichita Symphony Society. Coaches are expected to uphold the educational mission and artistic standards of the Wichita Symphony Society while fostering a positive and inclusive learning environment.

Coach Responsibilities

1. Rehearsals/Sectionals

- 1.1 Set up percussion instruments in rehearsal rooms prior to the beginning of rehearsals, dress rehearsals, and performances.
- 1.2 Lead sections for Youth Symphony, Repertory Orchestra, and Youth Wind Ensemble as outlined in the coaching calendar. Youth Symphony and Repertory Orchestra rehearse on Sunday afternoons September – March. Youth Wind Ensemble rehearses on Monday evenings January – March.
- 1.3 Conductors may adjust sectional hours at their discretion (i.e. reverse the order or Repertory and Youth Symphony sectional times).
- 1.4 Arrive early and begin sectionals promptly.
- 1.5 Take attendance at each rehearsal and report attendance to the Education and Youth Orchestras Manager after every rehearsal.
- 1.6 WSYO conductors and/or WSYO Staff may enter rooms at any time for observation, rehearsing, or the distribution of information. Students should witness positive and collaborative interactions among all WSYO faculty and staff.
- 1.7 Coach from the sidelines when specified in the rehearsal schedule.

2. Communications

- 2.1 Be in regular communication with Youth Orchestras Conductors and WSYO Staff regarding rehearsal schedule, student behavior/attendance issues, scheduling conflicts, and any other issues as they arise.
- 2.2 Read weekly communications from conductors regarding rehearsal schedules and issues that need to be addressed in the percussion sections.



- 2.3 Maintain a professional attitude in all interactions with students. Do not express criticism regarding any students, faculty, staff, or WSYO policies and procedures with students. Bring issues directly to the Education and Youth Orchestras Manager.

3. Attendance

- 3.1 Be present at every rehearsal, dress rehearsal, and concert, as outlined in the coaching calendar.
- 3.2 No more than two absences per semester will be allowed at regular rehearsals, and coaches must provide an appropriate substitute if they will be absent from a regular rehearsal.
- 3.3 Notify the Education and Youth Orchestras Manager no later than two weeks before a scheduled absence and include information about your substitute.
 - 4.3.1 Coaches are responsible for providing subs with the necessary parts/scores and instructions for leading WSYO sectionals.
 - 4.3.2 The Wichita Symphony Society will compensate substitute coaches at a rate of \$35 per hour and will deduct the correlating amount from the WSYO coach's semester pay.

4. Membership Auditions

- 4.1 Be available to adjudicate membership auditions for your instrument in May/June, if possible. Additional compensation for each section adjudicated will be provided at a rate of \$50 per day.

5. Recruitment

- 5.1 Promote participation in WSYO through the sharing of printed advertising materials and word of mouth.

6. WSYO Awards

- 6.1 Provide input on students being considered for end of year awards, if asked.

Compensation

Compensation for the 2026-2027 season shall be \$5,000.00, to be paid in two payments: \$2,000.00 in November and \$3,000.00 in March.

Compensation includes all rehearsals as outlined in the coaching calendar. Honorariums will be paid for additional services performed.

Coaches shall receive one 2026-2027 Masterworks season ticket to the Wichita Symphony, as well as one ticket to both the Fall and Spring Youth Orchestras Concerts. Contact the Symphony Box Office at (316)267-7658 to redeem tickets.



2026-2027 Percussion Coach Schedule

Rehearsals take place at Duerksen Fine Arts Center at Wichita State University at the following times, unless otherwise specified.

Sundays: 2:00–5:00 PM
***Saturdays: 9:00 AM–Noon**
PERCUSSION SET UP: 1 HOUR PRIOR

Fall 2026: Youth Symphony & Repertory Orchestra

Sunday, August 30 – Youth Symphony Retreat 9:00 AM – 4:00 PM

Saturday, September 12 – WSYO Orientation (Advanced Learning Library)

Sunday, September 13 – First Rehearsal

Sunday, September 20

Sunday, September 27

Saturday, October 3*

Sunday, October 11

Sunday, October 18

Sunday, October 25

Sunday, November 1

Tuesday, November 3, 5:00 – 9:00 PM Dress rehearsal at Century II

Wednesday, November 4, 6:15 – 9:00 PM Dress Rehearsal at Century II

Thursday, November 5, 7:30 – 8:30 PM Dress Rehearsal at Century II

Friday, November 6, 7:00 PM - Fall Concert (Youth Symphony & Repertory Orchestra)

Sunday, November 8, 3:00 PM – Fall Concert (Chamber Groups, ISO, Youth Chamber Players)



Spring 2027: Youth Symphony, Repertory Orchestra, Youth Wind Ensemble

Sundays: 2:00–5:00 PM

***Saturdays: 9:00 AM–Noon**

Mondays: 6:00 – 8:00 PM (Youth Wind Ensemble)

PERCUSSION SET UP: 1 HOUR PRIOR

Sunday, January 10

Monday, January 11

Sunday, January 17

Monday, January 18

Sunday, January 24

Monday, January 25

Sunday, January 31

Monday, February 1

Saturday, February 6

Monday, February 8

Sunday, February 14

Monday, February 15

Saturday, February 20

Monday, February 22

Sunday, February 28

Monday, March 1

Tuesday, March 2, 4:30 – 9:00 PM Dress Rehearsal at Century II

Wednesday, March 3, 6:15 – 7:30 PM Dress Rehearsal at Century II

Thursday, March 4, 7:00 – 9:30 PM Dress Rehearsal at Century II

Friday, March 5, 7:00 PM – Spring Concert (Youth Wind Ensemble, Repertory Orchestra, Youth Symphony)

Saturday, March 6, 7:00 PM – Spring Concert (Chamber Groups, Introductory String Orchestra, Youth Chamber Players)

Click [here](#) to apply for the position.