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# Meet the WSYO Ensembles

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## **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 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**

Our youngest orchestra, the Youth Chamber Players is WSYO's only 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.

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# Which Ensemble is the Best Fit?

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All of the WSYO ensembles maintain high standards of musicianship and require commitment, and all of the ensembles give two public performances each year. The below checklists can help you in determining which ensemble may be the best fit for you.

## **Youth Chamber Players** (open to string students entering grades 4-10)

- Beginning to tune the instrument
- Can read music
- Can shift through 3<sup>rd</sup> position
- Able to play in the keys of C, G, D, F and B-flat

## **Repertory Orchestra** (open to string, woodwind, brass, and percussion students entering grades 7–12)

- Can tune the instrument
- Strings: Able to demonstrate a variety of bowing techniques
- Strings: Able to shift through 5<sup>th</sup> position
- Winds: Able to demonstrate a variety of articulations
- Incorporates some vibrato
- At least two years of ensemble experience (school band or orchestra, or WSYO Chamber Players)

## **Wind Ensemble** (open to woodwind, brass, and percussion students entering grades 7–12)

- Can tune the instrument
- Knowledge and understanding of scales and arpeggios
- Able to play in most keys
- Able to read and play complex rhythms
- At least two years of ensemble experience (i.e. school band, WSYO Repertory Orchestra or Youth Symphony)

## **Youth Symphony** (WSYO's most advanced ensemble – open to string, woodwind, brass, and percussion students entering grades 7–12)

- Able to shift beyond 5<sup>th</sup> position (violins and violas)
- Thumb position knowledge (cello and bass)
- Clear vibrato and ability to play with a variety of bowing techniques
- Able to play in all keys
- Several years of ensemble experience (school band or orchestra, or WSYO Chamber Players, Repertory Orchestra, or Wind Ensemble)