



POSITION

Director of WY String Ensembles & Peer Mentoring Program

Job Description

The Director of the WY String Ensembles is responsible for conducting/teaching two levels of string orchestra in rehearsals and concerts, recruiting and retaining members and providing a positive ensemble and social experience to the enrolled students. The WY String Ensembles consist of an upper advanced string orchestra (Sinfonia Strings), and an introductory string orchestra program (Prelude Strings) based on a group class model. The WY String Ensembles are part of the wider WYO program, acting as a training orchestra and providing instruction that nurtures a student's musical development, reinforces string fundamentals and introduces them to an ensemble experience. The position has much potential for the candidate's own ideas and creativity in further developing an established youth music education program. The Conductor should have expertise on one string instrument and proficient ability to demonstrate on all other string instruments. Knowledge of intermediate and beginner string ensemble repertoire is highly desirable as well as the ability to arrange as needed for younger players.

The Peer Mentoring Program is a collaboration between WY Philharmonic and WY Sinfonia Strings students. It provides opportunities for WY Philharmonic string students (many of which have been members of the WY String Ensembles) to coach and support younger string players during the yearly rehearsals and play side by side with them at certain concerts.

Position Summary

Reports directly to the Artistic Director.

Primary Duties & Expectations:

- Rehearsals & Performances
 - o Conduct all rehearsals, preparing students for performances. Rehearsals are Sundays (September through May), Sinfonia Strings, 1:30pm to 2:30pm, and Prelude Strings, 3:00pm to 4:00pm, arriving 30 minutes prior to rehearsal and being available 30 minutes post rehearsal to meet with students, staff and parents.
 - o Assist with set-up and breakdown of chairs, stands, equipment for all concerts and rehearsals that involve the String Ensembles.
 - o Conduct all String concerts, including coordinating with other ensemble directors at combined performances or side-by-sides.

- Duties, Requirements, Expectations
 - o Adjudicate yearly auditions, provide audition excerpts as needed.
 - o Submit to the Artistic Director concert programming with appropriate repertoire for approval.
 - o Submit music purchases to the General Manager in a timely manner, assist as needed.
 - o With the WY Philharmonic Conductor, identify Philharmonic students to participate in the Mentoring Program, coordinating student schedules as needed.
 - o Check WYO provided email, responding to administrative/student concerns in a timely fashion.
 - o Knowledge of and access to Google Docs/Drive, Outlook/iMail is required.
 - o Attend monthly conductor/faculty meetings, usually scheduled after orchestra rehearsal.
 - o When schedule allows, visit schools and attend concerts to support local music programs.

- Display appropriate personal behavior and professional conduct as befits someone working with children in a public facing position.
- Ability to work as a member of a team with regard to coordinating performances, rehearsals, concert programs, projects and events with good organizational/time management skills.
- Maturity and comfort in dealing with and responding to parental concerns and questions.

Qualifications

- Bachelors in Music required, Masters in Music Education/String Instrument preferred.
- Connections in the Greater Worcester and Central Massachusetts music community, including positive relationships with teachers and public/private school music teachers is highly desirable.
- Expertise in playing and performing on at least one traditional orchestral string instrument: violin, viola, cello or bass. Knowledge of fingerings and basic technique for other string instruments.
- Ability to arrange / adapt music parts as needed.
- Experience working with young musicians, ages 6 to 12 in a group environment.
- Desire to inspire young musicians with a love for music.
- Desire to be a part of an outstanding team of students, parents, faculty and board who are passionate about serving central Massachusetts with a high quality youth orchestra program.

Compensation

Compensation commensurate with experience. Classified as an Independent Contractor, not eligible for benefits.

To Apply

Please submit a cover letter, resume and 3 references with contact information to search@worcesteryouthorchestras.org by May 1st. Materials will be reviewed and potential candidates interviewed as applications are received. Final candidates may be asked to lead a rehearsal with students in May or early June.

Do not submit videos unless requested.

Start date is mid-August 2025 for the 2025 - 2026 Season.

Please direct all questions to Cecilia Berger, Search Committee Chair, search@worcesteryouthorchestras.org