

2025/26 Entrance Audition Requirements

As part of your application, candidates auditioning for YSKC should record an unedited video which includes:

- A short verbal introduction from the candidate (1 minute) talking about themselves, why music is important to them, why they wish to join YSKC and what they hope to achieve in future.
- A **performance of the material** appropriate to the **Grade Level they will be entering** at school in Fall of 2025, **as outlined below**.

Once this is completed, please upload this as an UNLISTED video to YouTube, and provide the link to this video in your application.

N.B. If you choose to audition on more than one instrument, i.e. 'cello and percussion, submit two videos on ONE application.

Here are a few things for Candidates to remember when submitting an application:

- At YSKC, we look for musical **potential**, not perfection.
- We help and encourage our students to **find their own voice** and develop individual excellence.
- Throughout **elementary, middle and high** school, we help students turn aspiration into achievement.

We're passionate about helping young musicians like you reach their musical potential in an orchestral setting and beyond. We are excited to meet you via video submission, and we really look forward to hearing you play.

Good Luck!

Keith Stanfield
Artistic Director - The Youth Symphony of Kansas City



JUNIOR SCHOOL:

5TH - 8TH GRADE (2025/26)

PLEASE RECORD AN UNEDITED VIDEO CONTAINING:

- A short verbal introduction from the candidate (1 minute) talking about themselves, why music is important to them, why they wish to join YSKC and what they hope to achieve in future
- The orchestral excerpt below - prioritizing intonation, tone and rhythm over tempo
- 2-3 minutes of a piece of your choice, **which best showcases your talents**

March from the Nutcracker Ballet, Tchaikovsky/arr. Merle Isaac

49

f *sf > f* *sf > mf*

57

f *ff* *f* *sf > f*

65

sf > mf *ff*

73

Upload your audition video that includes the **verbal introduction, orchestral excerpt and solo piece** to YouTube as an **unlisted video**, viewable via link ([see instructional video](#))

Copy and paste the unlisted link into your YSKC application, accessible via our Candidate Portal at YSKC.org. Applications will be available by February 14th, 2025.

SENIOR SCHOOL:

9TH - 12TH GRADE (2025/26)

PLEASE RECORD AN UNEDITED VIDEO CONTAINING:

- A short verbal introduction from the candidate (1 minute) talking about themselves, why music is important to them, why they wish to join YSKC and what they hope to achieve in future.
- The orchestral excerpt below - prioritizing, intonation, tone and rhythm over tempo
- 2-3 minutes of a piece of your choice, **which best showcases your talents**

Chester (William Schuman)

Allegro Vivace ♩ = 144

The image shows a musical score for the piece 'Chester' by William Schuman. It consists of three staves of music. The first staff is in treble clef, 4/4 time, and is marked *mf dolce cantabile*. The tempo is indicated as Allegro Vivace with a quarter note equal to 144. The music is written in a key with one sharp (F#) and one flat (Bb). The score includes various rhythmic values such as eighth, quarter, and half notes, along with rests and dynamic markings.

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Copy and paste the unlisted link into your YSKC application, accessible via our Candidate Portal at YSKC.org. Applications will be available by February 14th, 2025.

SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA (2025/26)

- To be considered for Symphony Orchestra you must complete the Senior School audition as well as the Symphony Orchestra audition
- The Senior School and Symphony Orchestra audition may be two separate videos but both links must be submitted in the application to be considered
- Record an unedited video of the orchestral excerpt below - prioritizing intonation, tone and rhythm over tempo

Swan Lake, Op. 20, Act 4: No. 29, Pytor Tchaikovsky

The musical score is presented on five staves. The first staff includes the tempo marking *Allegro agitato* and the dynamic marking *mf*. The notation consists of eighth and sixteenth notes, with various slurs and accents. The final staff ends with a *pp* dynamic marking and a final chord.

Upload your audition video that includes the **verbal introduction, orchestral excerpt and solo piece** to YouTube as an **unlisted video**, viewable via link ([see instructional video](#))

Copy and paste the unlisted link into your YSKC application, accessible via our Candidate Portal at [YSKC.org](#). Applications will be available by February 14th, 2025.