

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 2026, **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 (rest one measure for any multi-measure rests)

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

The image displays three staves of musical notation for the Trepak from the Nutcracker Ballet. The first staff begins with a dynamic marking of *p* (piano) and transitions to *mf* (mezzo-forte) after a crescendo hairpin. It includes a multi-measure rest of 8 measures starting at measure 17 and another of 7 measures starting at measure 25. The second staff starts at measure 33 with a dynamic marking of *mf* and features several accents. The third staff begins at measure 41 with a dynamic marking of *f* (forte) and includes a crescendo hairpin.

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

TIMPANI (1234A Excerpt)

Rotation No. 2 (John Wickersham)

(♩ = 120)

The musical score is written in bass clef, 4/4 time, and B-flat major. It consists of four staves. The first staff begins with a piano (*p*) dynamic and ends with a forte (*f*) dynamic. The second staff features triplet patterns with accents and ends with a piano (*p*) dynamic. The third staff starts with mezzo-piano (*mp*) and ends with fortissimo (*ff*) and forte (*f*) dynamics. The fourth staff starts with mezzo-piano (*mp*) and ends with forte (*f*) dynamics. The score includes various rhythmic patterns, accents, and dynamic markings throughout.

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

Timpani

Carlos Simon: *Tales: A Folklore Symphony*, third movement: "Go Down Moses,"
measures 255–267

Excerpt from *Tales: A Folklore Symphony*
by Carlos Simon

251-254

Timpani

f

257

p *ff*

Solo

261

p *f* *p* *f* *p* *fp*

Agitato

266

ff

rit. $\text{♩} = 60$

269-270

Upload your audition video that includes the **verbal introduction and all three orchestral excerpts** 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.