

**YOUTH
SYMPHONY of
KANSAS CITY**



**2026-2027
New Candidate
Application**

TIMPANI

2026-2027 New Applicant Audition Requirements

Note: This is only for new students who have not previously participated in Youth Symphony of Kansas City.

Thank you for your interest in joining the Youth Symphony of Kansas City. As part of your application, candidates auditioning for YSKC should record a single, continuous, and unedited video including:

- 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.

Note: If you choose to audition on more than one instrument (i.e. cello and bassoon) 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

Executive Director - Youth Symphony of Kansas City

Questions? Email us at hello@yskc.org.

2026-2027 New Applicant Process

This is a guide for how to fill out your application. It is a five-step process outlined below:

Note: This is only for new students who have not previously participated in Youth Symphony of Kansas City.

1. Follow this link to submit the inquiry form: <https://www.yskc.org/start-here/>
2. After submitting the inquiry form, you will receive an email prompting you to create a Veracross account. Veracross is YSKC's secure online portal where families complete application and enrollment steps, submit forms and payments, and receive important updates throughout the season.
3. Complete all checklist items and submit your video audition in the Veracross Admissions Portal before **Saturday, May 16, 2026 at 11:59 CST.**
 - o **Step 1:** Login to the admission portal.
 - o **Step 2:** Pay the application fee and submit a YouTube link containing a single audition video in one take.
 - o **Step 3:** Refresh your page and fill out the student/guardian information.
4. An acceptance decision made by the YSKC Faculty will be available in your Veracross portal by **Saturday, May 23, 2026.**
5. If offered a position, accept your position, fill out the enrollment form, and pay the enrollment fee and tuition deposit before **June 1, 2026.** Congratulations on becoming a member of the Youth Symphony of Kansas City!

Questions? Email us at hello@yskc.org.

Junior School:

5th–8th Grade (2026-2027)

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 (as mentioned in the General 2026/27 Entrance Requirements).
- The orchestral excerpt below - prioritizing intonation, tone and rhythm over tempo (no repeat).
- 2-3 minutes of a piece of your choice, **which best showcases your talents.**

“March” from the *Nutcracker Ballet*, Tchaikovsky, arr. Merle Isaac

Timpani, mm. 13-43

♩ = 144

The musical score consists of three staves of music for the timpani part. The first staff begins at measure 13 with a piano (*p*) dynamic. It features a series of eighth notes and rests, leading into a crescendo that reaches a mezzo-forte (*mf*) dynamic at measure 17. The second staff starts at measure 25, also marked *mf*, and includes a fermata over measure 33. The third staff begins at measure 41, marked with a forte (*f*) dynamic, and continues with eighth notes and rests.

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 14, 2026.

Senior School:

9th–12th Grade (2026-2027)

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 (as mentioned in the General 2026/27 Entrance Requirements)
- The orchestral excerpts below - prioritizing intonation, tone and rhythm over tempo.
- 2-3 minutes of a piece of your choice, **which best showcases your talents.**

Beethoven, *Egmont Overture*

mm. 294 - End

Tempo: Half note = 94

The image shows a musical score for the Timpani part of Beethoven's *Egmont Overture*, measures 287 to 333. The score is written in bass clef with a common time signature (C). The tempo is marked "Allegro con brio". The dynamics range from *pp* (pianissimo) to *ff* (fortissimo). The score includes various musical notations such as trills (*tr*), accents (*acc.*), and slurs. A bracket on the left side of the first staff indicates that measures 287-304 are to be recorded. The score is divided into systems, with measure numbers 287, 298, 305, 318, 325, and 333 marked at the beginning of their respective staves. The first staff (measures 287-304) features a series of eighth notes with a crescendo leading to a fortissimo section. The second staff (measures 298-304) includes trills and accents. The third staff (measures 305-317) features a half note (H) and a trill. The fourth staff (measures 318-324) includes a trill and accents. The fifth staff (measures 325-332) includes a trill and accents. The sixth staff (measures 333-339) features a series of eighth notes with accents.

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Léo Delibes - *Le Roi S'Amuse*, Timpani

No. 1, mm. 111 - 125

Tempo: Dotted half note = 64

$\text{♩} \cdot = 64$

2^a
Timb.
f

p *f*

p

Upload your audition video that includes the **verbal introduction, orchestral excerpts, 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 14, 2026.

Symphony Orchestra (2026-2027)

- 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.

Beethoven, *Symphony No. 9 in D minor, Op. 125, Mvt IV*

Timpani, mm. 801-940

♩ = 144

Allegro ma non tanto ♩ = 120

763 **32** S Viol. I

ff **Start Here** *fff* *f* *sf* *f* *f*

803

f *ff* *f* *f* *f* *p* *cresc.* *f*

poco adagio Tempo I Viol. I

810 **4** **4**

f *f* *f* *f* *f* *ff*

825 **poco adagio** **1** **4** **6**

f *f* *f* *p* *cresc.* *ff* *f* *f* *f*

poco Allegro, stringendo il tempo, sempre più Allegro

843 Viol. I **Presto** ♩ = 132

cresc. *ff*

852 **2** **2** **1** **1-8** **2** **3** **4** **5**

sf *sf* *f* *f* *f*

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866 6 7 8
f *f* *f*

876 7 T 6
ff *ff*

898
ff

908
ff *ff* *ff*

916 *Maestoso* ♩ = 60 *Prestissimo*
p *f* *sf* *sf* *ff*

924

933

The musical score is written for a single timpani part. It consists of seven staves of music. The first staff (measures 866-875) features a rhythmic pattern of eighth notes with dynamic markings of *f*. The second staff (measures 876-897) includes a trill (T) and dynamic markings of *ff*. The third staff (measures 898-907) continues with *ff* dynamics. The fourth staff (measures 908-915) shows a change in tempo and dynamics, with *ff* markings. The fifth staff (measures 916-923) is marked *Maestoso* (♩ = 60) and *Prestissimo*, with dynamics ranging from *p* to *ff*. The sixth staff (measures 924-932) features a rhythmic pattern of eighth notes. The seventh staff (measures 933) ends with a large fermata over a final note.

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 14, 2026.