



YOUTH SYMPHONY of KANSAS CITY

GROWTH THROUGH MUSIC

2025/2026 SEASON

WORLD-CHANGING CREATIVITY

The UMKC Conservatory is your home for world-class collegiate training. It is also where our Conservatory Academy opens doors for everyone — with classes for musicians as young as six months! Bring your family and experience the transformative power of dance, music and theatre at UMKC.



WELCOME

FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dear Patrons of the Arts,

It's my great pleasure to welcome you to the Youth Symphony of Kansas City's 2025-2026 Season—a season defined by **Growth Through Music**. Every rehearsal, every concert, and every shared experience this year reflects our belief that Classical Music has the power to shape not only skilled musicians, but resilient, curious, intelligent, productive and inspired members of society.

For nearly seventy years, YSKC has provided young people across our region with opportunities to discover their voices and deepen their artistry and intellect. This year, our theme—Growth Through Music—reminds us that the process of becoming a musician is intrinsically linked to the process of becoming oneself. Growth happens when a student learns to listen, to collaborate, to persevere, and to find beauty in the pursuit of excellence.

Our 2025-2026 season captures this spirit of continual transformation. From the energy of Opening Day at Shawnee Mission South to the exciting finale of the Spring Concerts at the Kauffman Center, our students will experience musical milestones that foster discipline and creativity. Performances such as the Fall Concerts at Yardley Hall in the Midwest Trust Center, our Chamber Showcase Series at St. Andrew's

Episcopal Church, and the Holiday Concert at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception, highlight how far these young musicians travel each year—artistically and personally.

At the same time, YSKC itself is growing—expanding its programs, partnerships, and reach. Through collaborations with professional arts organizations like the Kansas City Ballet, Kansas City Symphony, the Midwest Trust Center, the Lyric Opera, UMKC and The Opus 76 Quartet, we are enriching the musical lives of students while strengthening the cultural fabric of Kansas City. YSKC is the major Grassroots Arts Organization connecting families with every professional Arts Organization in this city. Each partnership amplifies our mission: to grow our students, grow our program, and grow our community—all through the unifying power of classical music.

As you join us for this season's performances, you will witness not only extraordinary artistry but living proof of what happens when a community invests in creativity and education. Together, we nurture more than talent—we cultivate empathy, leadership, and the timeless joy of making music together.



All Good Wishes,

Keith Stanfield
Executive Director
Youth Symphony of Kansas City
[YSKC.org](https://yskc.org)



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Steven D. Davis, Conductor

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Raffaele Cipriano, Conductor

PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA

Michelle Davis, Conductor
Amanda Kremer, Conductor

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Anna Cook, Conductor
Andrew Book, Assistant Conductor

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Congratulations to the
YOUTH SYMPHONY
 of KANSAS CITY
 on a great season!



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2025/2026 ENSEMBLES

STEVEN D. DAVIS
 CONDUCTOR



Conductor Steven D. Davis is a versatile and cosmopolitan leader who has inspired ensembles worldwide. In high demand as a guest conductor, he has worked across four continents, in cities such as Bangkok, Beijing, Lisbon and Sydney, while regularly conducting in Kansas City.

Davis is known for breaking barriers by leading performances in diverse genres, including wind ensembles, orchestras, opera, ballet and new music. He is a professor of conducting and conductor of the Conservatory Wind Symphony at the University of Missouri-Kansas City, where he has fostered numerous collaborations with other arts.

He is in his sixteenth season as conductor of the Youth Symphony of Kansas City's Symphony Orchestra, which has performed at prestigious events and on its 2016 Ireland Tour. Davis also serves as resident conductor of newEar, Kansas City's premier new music ensemble, and is a faculty member at Interlochen Summer Arts Camp.

He annually hosts the Kansas City Conducting Symposium and has received many awards and honors in his field.

SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

VIOLIN I

Daniel Chang
*Tiberius Klausner Endowed
 Concertmaster Chair*
 Caleb Park
*25-26 Season
 Endowed Chair*
 Matthew Fang
 Neil Joshi
 Yiqiao Wang
 Evan Nugent
 Etina Roelofs
 Brodie Stone
 Eliana Simon
 Shuyun Li
 Katherine Medina
 Myna Singh
 Athul Prasad
 Jewel An

VIOLIN II

Leonardo Aptilon
 Ava Ciccio
 Joshua Burroughs
 Caroline Lee
 Isabella Lee
 Eloïse Seiler
 Gisue Lim
 Ashly Silva
 Lucas Park
 Isabel Franz
 Katherine Howe
 Hattie Young
 Claire Messerli
 Daniel Hoff
 Sharon Lee
 Kai Soo

VIOLA

Alexis Chang
 Preston Elliott
 Louis Brown
 Alex Velasco-Crates
 Alison Chung
 Aleena Legion
 Sofia Pedraza-Si
 Kate Hagan
 Roland Andrews
 Anna Qi

CELLO

Michael Fang
 Tiarra Johnston
 Graham Heller
 Katja Jacimovic
 Nikos Lipscomb
 Naasif Ahmed
 Aubrey Kudzia
 Hyein Song
 Kimora Heath
*25-26 Season
 Endowed Chair*
 Chloe Han

DOUBLE BASS

Clare O'Malley
 Lincoln Helms
 Jude Goodpasture

FLUTE

Alex Saddler
 Kai Templeton
 Andrew Thompson

OBOE

Lucia Ohly
 Mollie Domoney
 Olivia Wang

CLARINET

Noah Floyd
*25-26 Season
 Endowed Chair*
 Arnav Jampana

BASSOON

Henry Wheat
 Bryce Hopkins
 Madison Smith

HORN

Elianna Okediji
 Kate Deardorff
 Anne Perry-Parrish
 Caelin
 Marien-McManus

TRUMPET

Jesse Mack
 Tessa Chaffee

TUBA

Matthew Bryan
*25-26 Season
 Endowed Chair*

TIMPANI

Anthony Seck
*25-26 Season
 Endowed Chair*

THE OPUS 76 QUARTET



WWW.OPUS76.ORG

2025/2026 ENSEMBLES



RAFFAELE CIPRIANO
CONDUCTOR

Raffaele Cipriano is an esteemed Italian conductor, opera coach and composer, excited to work with the Youth Symphony of Kansas City and guide young musicians in learning masterpieces of symphonic literature.

Trained at the prestigious Conservatories of Padua and Venice, he excels in orchestral conducting, collaborative piano, opera repertoire and composition. In 2015, he pursued a doctorate in orchestral conducting at The University of Kansas, mentored by Maestro David Neely, graduating with honors in 2018. Cipriano has garnered acclaim through collaborations with esteemed organizations like Lawrence Arts Center, Lawrence Opera Theater and Landlocked Opera. He served as assistant/cover conductor at Sarasota Opera and currently holds the position of assistant conductor for the Topeka Symphony Orchestra. He has recently joined the music faculty at Washburn University as a lecturer and Director of Orchestra.

“Notable achievements include music direction for Romeo and Juliet, Cinderella and Carmen for Lawrence Opera Theater, conducting A Chorus Line in Topeka and guest conducting the Springfield Symphony. Based in Kansas City, Cipriano is the music director and conductor of the Overland Park Orchestra and serves as music director at the Good Shepherd Catholic Church in Shawnee.

CLASSICAL ORCHESTRA

VIOLIN I

Ruth Trausch
Nabil Frihat
Bridget Sullivan
Aiden Hao
Charlotte Fobes
Ella Wiebe
Jacob Foote
Georgia Cisar
Paige Stetson
Camdon Ellis
Gannon Gibb
Emmeline Walker
Hattie Winter
*25-26 Season
Endowed Chair*
Kate Wiebe
Teni Oyetunji
Koyuri Morita
Isabella WangFan

VIOLIN II

Lauren Bedell
Liam Delorme
Elizabeth Puls
Claire Gibbar
Elizabeth Howe
Manasvi Matta
*25-26 Season
Endowed Chair*
Samantha Maxwell
Shreeya Iyer
Maren Walters
Ava Smith
Quinn Hunter
Olivia Harris
Aoi Morita
*25-26 Season
Endowed Chair*
Emily Nelson
Claire Rosen
Gia Lim
Yabo Wang
Arabella Stimac

Allison Chu
Clara Marriott
Kyla Hess
Isabelle Johnson
Julia Eide
Kinley Leuck

VIOLA

Zach Rephlo
*25-26 Season
Endowed Chair*
Asher Piskuric
Eva McElderry
Levi Grassy
Amelia Cox
Grace Moses
Gabrielle Gracius
Mira McInnes
Lucas Hasiuk

CELLO

Will Savage
Varun Kabra
Paul Burfeind
Jackson Kemery
Elizabeth Whitaker
Micah Kramer
Ethan Chen
Lillian Spruell
Lila Scruggs
Amelia Kalahurka
Gabriel Lupardus
Krish Iyer
Sophia Giggy
Boden Cumming
Violette Witt

FLUTE

Lizzie Herron
Kaylee Liu
Olivia Suh
Tay Bailey
Sindhujha Rama

OBOE

Sam Goodfriend
Maisie Young

CLARINET

Futaba Matsumura
Morgan McConnell
Adalynn
Herschberger
Ian Choi
Eric Nguyen
Helena England
Jacklyn Kirkland

BASSOON

Aiden Lorett
Rhianna Marney
*25-26 Season
Endowed Chair*
Addison Graheck

HORN

Sydney Zupon
Rick Rowland

TRUMPET

Caleb Shonkwiler

PERCUSSION

Brady Rouse



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2025/2026 ENSEMBLES

MICHELLE DAVIS CONDUCTOR



Michelle Davis is a recently retired string orchestra educator with 32 years of teaching experience in Illinois, Michigan, and Missouri. She taught orchestra at the elementary, middle, and high school levels, most recently serving as the conductor of the Liberty High School Orchestras in Liberty, Missouri. Currently, she is the conductor Youth Symphony of Kansas City Philharmonic Orchestra, Harmony Project Encore Orchestra, and interim Professor of String Pedagogy at University of Missouri Kansas City Conservatory. She also maintains a private violin/viola studio.

Michelle previously taught beginning strings and junior high orchestra in Oak Park, Illinois, and middle school orchestra in Farmington Hills, Michigan. She also served a two-year term as Orchestra Vice President for the Missouri Music Educators Association.

An experienced clinician and guest conductor, Michelle has worked with school districts across Missouri and presented sessions at state and national conferences, including the Michigan Music Conference and the American String Teachers Association (ASTA) National Conference. In 2008, she was honored as Liberty Public Schools' "Teacher of the Year."

Michelle holds a bachelor's degree in viola performance and a master's degree in music education from the University of Michigan. She is an active member of the Suzuki Association of the Americas (SAA), the National Association for Music Education (NAfME), and ASTA. She lives in Liberty with her husband, Steve, and their two goldendoodles, Maddy and Henri.

AMANDA KREMER CONDUCTOR



Amanda Kremer is originally from Springfield, Mo. She graduated from Missouri State University with a Bachelor of Science in Music Education. Amanda played horn with the Minnesota Symphonic Winds and completed her master's degree in educational leadership from Saint Mary's University of Minnesota.

Ms. Kremer conducted with the Greater Twin Cities Youth Symphony for three years, and prior to that was a GTCYS sectional coach for several years. She also has 12 years of classroom teaching experience. Amanda and her husband Nate moved to Overland Park, Kan. in 2015 and are enjoying life with their three daughters.

PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA

VIOLIN I

Addison Arnold
Wumei Cai
Jonas Kates
Phoebe Yu
Michael Honomichl
Lexi Pierce
Hannah Cha
Natasha Huang
Isabelle Bae
25-26 Season
Endowed Chair
Jessica White
Zoe O'Connell
Lucy Martin
Jacob Yong Cheon
Sarah Niu
Celeste
Griot-Madden
Milo Griot-Madden

VIOLA

Konnor Chipps
MengMeng Barua
Kamron Kamali
William Mooy
GianCarlos Molina

CELO
Aaron Puls
Juliette Tignon
Joel McClelland
Elie de Leiris
Eloise Reynolds
Owen Maier
Xander Thron
Reese Rottinghaus
Lylah Planchon
Josie Wurth

CLARINET

TJ Finch
Mathis Wright
Alaina Moyer
Juliana Fetzter
HORN
Jorge Velez
Colin Duke
Annabella Chambers

TRUMPET

Maverick Martin
Pranay Haligheri
Liam Hageman

TROMBONE

Jackson Burns

TUBA

James Hogrefe
Ellison Butler

DOUBLE BASS

Alexander Hirsch
25-26 Season
Endowed Chair

VIOLIN II

Rhys McNeal
Alexis Rockhold
Aryav Shrestha
Jack Wengler
Dorian Sherwood
Aristos Pech
Leah Caviness
Sharvi Batni
Quentin Hoskins
Mercy Mitchum
Maelena Green
Alissa Martin
Sophia Kang
Evelyn Omanson
Ella Galliera
Aiden Zhou

FLUTE

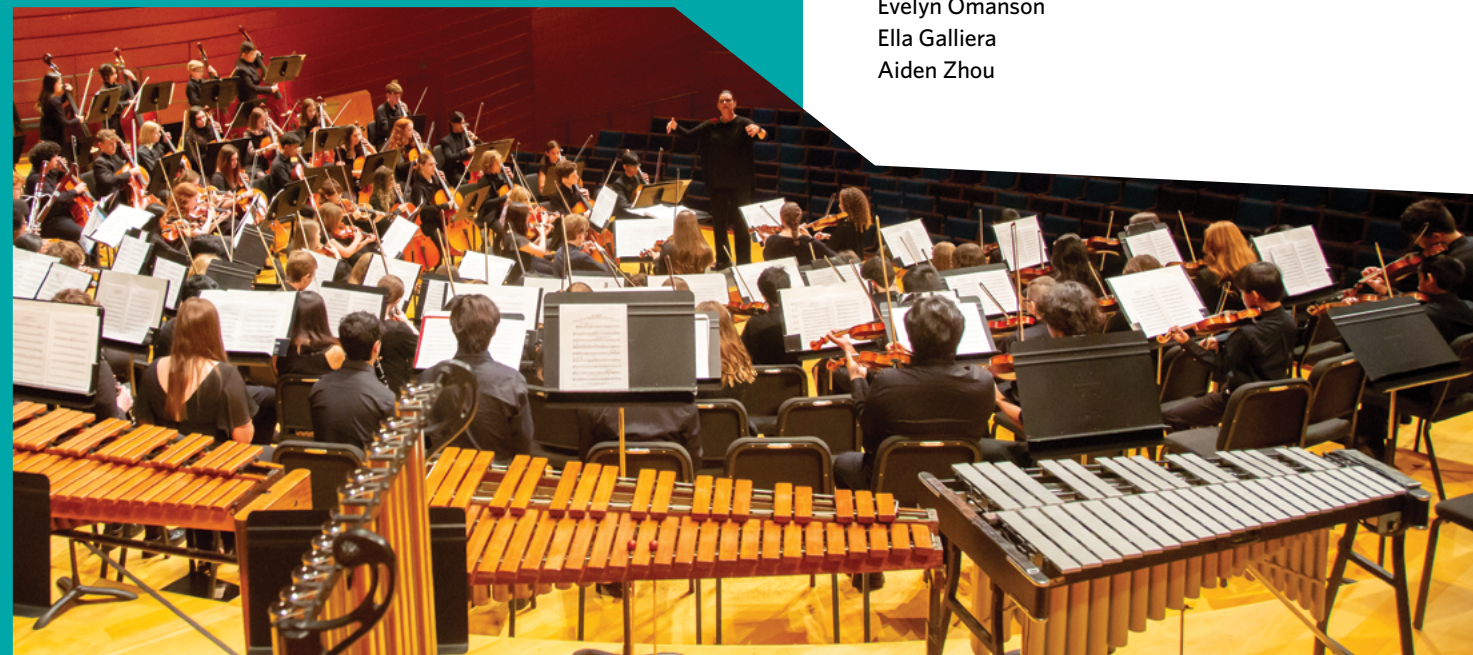
Kaden Barrett
Lucy Wagner
Natalia Robinson
Samantha Mires

OBOE

Avery Tharp
Layla Shah
Colin Wehner

PERCUSSION

Myka Killip
Ryan Wacker



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2025/2026 ENSEMBLES



ANNA COOK
CONDUCTOR

Originally from Lawrence, Kan., Anna Cook is a music educator and cellist in the Kansas City area. She holds cello performance and music education degrees from Bethel College and a masters degree in educational leadership from Fort Hays State University. Anna began her teaching career in Wilson, Kan., and is currently the orchestra director at Shawnee Mission North High School in Overland Park, Kan, where she has been since 2015. Anna is married to her husband Ryan and enjoys photography, traveling and playing with her twin toddlers, Andy and Hal.



ANDREW BOOK
ASSISTANT CONDUCTOR

Andrew Book is the Director of Orchestras at Blue Valley West High School, Pleasant Ridge Middle School, and Cedar Hills Elementary. He began teaching in 2010 after earning degrees in Music Education and Double Bass Performance from Wichita State University, and later completed a Master of Music Education in String Pedagogy from the University of Kansas. An active performer, Mr. Book plays with the St. Joseph and Topeka Symphonies and in musical productions across the Kansas City area. Outside of music, he enjoys time with his daughter, golfing, swimming, cooking, and cheering for the Kansas City Chiefs.

DEBUT ORCHESTRA

VIOLIN I

Shine An
Samantha Tang
Arnav Shah
Nolan Niemerg
Hugo Hess
Lainy Pierce
Rylan Smith
Bida Cai
Lawson Pierce
Shakira Huang
Eleanor Haberland
25-26 Season
Endowed Chair
Michael Li
25-26 Season
Endowed Chair
Madelyn Alamillo
Handwork
Landon Delphia

VIOLIN II

Angeline Tignon
Kellan Collado
Aranea Horn
Kendall Smead
Ezra Johnson
Harmony Nagy
Layla Busche
Madison Reilly
Elliot Williams

Adeline DavLight
Isabel Castro
Heath Miller
Rivka Haligheri
Alyssa Aguirre
Rory Stanfield

VIOLA

Kaiser Willmoth
Gia Gabriele
25-26 Season
Endowed Chair
Ellana Barnhart
Bennett Beahm
Ethan Lonesk

CELLO

Lorelai Strickland
Flynn Wallingford
Harper Cranford
25-26 Season
Endowed Chair
Fiona Scott
Luke Molitor
Phoenix Paralkar
Nolan Copus

DOUBLE BASS

Hannah Kremer
Sophia Wehner
Mia Menking

FLUTE

Brayden Lafargue
Noa Kramer

OBOE

Anne Whitacre

CLARINET

Natalie DeThorne



PARTNERS IN EDUCATION

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Ho Anthony Ahn
Ron Allen
Alla Aranovskaya
Shelley Armer
Virginia Backman
Jami Bale
Spencer Bannister
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Mackenzie Brazier
Rebecca Breasanellie
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Lisa Jackson
Nick Jarrett
Celeste Johnson

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Judy Johnson
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Salam Karahawa
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Jon Lane
Filip Lazovski
Manon Lawrence
Junghwan Lee
Sang Lee
Jackie Lee
Junghwan Lee
Sofia Lefort
Stacy Lendt
Kyoungseon Lim
Jodie Lin
Bethany Linville
Chiafei Lin
Ethan Loewen
Brett Lytle
Michael MacLaughlin
Kevin Maret
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Allison Mayes
Meredith McCook
Laura McGill
John McGrosso
Laura McWilliams
Destiny Mermagen
Michael Miller
Naomi Miller

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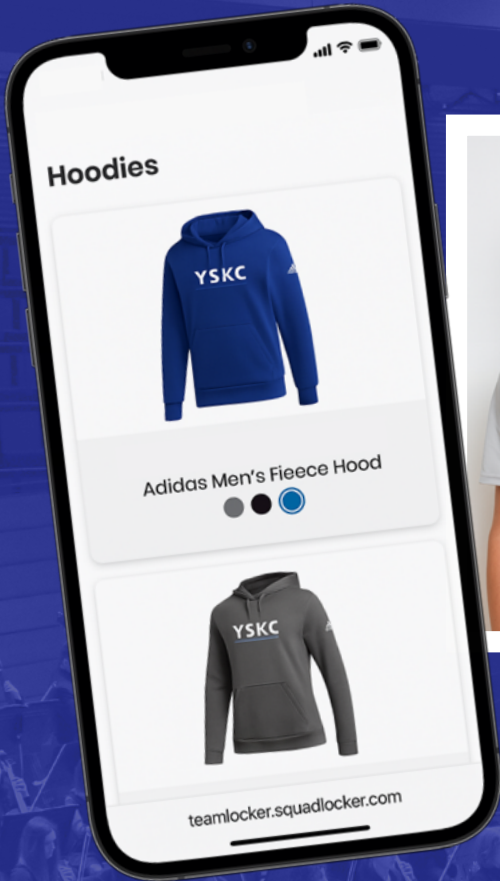
Supporting each and every Youth Symphony musician is a vibrant community of music educators from area schools and private studios. *Please join us in thanking our area music educators.*

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Owen Wallander
Schupei Wang
Kara Washington
Christina Webster
Kymbre Westhoff
Marti Whelan
Ashley White
Dustin Williams
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Micah Woulfe
Pei-In Yang
Susie Yang
Sheree Yoder
Daniel Yung

Educators who teach three or more YSKC musicians are noted in orange.

YSKC



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Academie Lafayette
Antioch Middle School
Ascension Catholic School
Aubry Bend Middle School
Barstow School
Basehor-Linwood High School
Bernard Campbell Middle School
Blue Springs High School
Blue Springs South High School
Blue Valley High School
Blue Valley Middle School
Blue Valley North High School
Blue Valley Northwest High School
Blue Valley Southwest High School
Blue Valley West High School
Brookwood Elementary
California Trail Middle School
Delta Woods Middle School
Discovery Middle School
Foreign Language Academy
Free State High School
Frontier Trail Middle School
Gardner Edgerton High School
Gateway
Global Village School
Good Shepherd Catholic School
Grain Valley High School
Grandview High School
Grandview Middle School
Hale Cook Elementary School
Harmony Middle School
Harrisonville High School
Heritage Middle School
Hocker Grove Middle School
Holy Spirit Catholic Elementary School
Indian Hills Middle School
Indian Woods Middle School
John Griffin Middle School

John Paul II Catholic School
Kansas City Charter School
Kansas City Christian
Kearney High School
Lakewood Middle School
Lawrence Free State High School
Lawrence High School
Leavenworth Sr. High
Leawood Middle School
Lee’s Summit High School
Lee’s Summit North High School
Lee’s Summit West High School
Liberty High School
Liberty Memorial Central Middle School
Liberty Middle School
Liberty North High School
Lincoln College Preparatory Academy
Mahaffie Elementary School
Maize Virtual School
Manhattan High School
McLouth High
Mizzou Academy
Moreland Ridge Middle School
New Mark Middle School
Notre Dame de Sion High School
Oak Park High School
Olathe East High School
Olathe North High School
Olathe Northwest High School
Our Lady of Perpetual Help
Overland Trail Middle School
Park Hill High School
Park Hill South High School
Paseo Academy of Fine and Performing Arts
Pawnee Elementary
Pembroke Hill School
Platte Purchase Middle School
Plaza Heights Christian Academy

Plaza Middle School
Pleasant Lea Middle School
Pleasant Ridge Middle School
Prairie Star Middle School
Prairie Trail Middle School
Ray Marsh Elementary
Raymore-Peculiar East Middle School
Raymore-Peculiar High School
Raymore-Peculiar South Middle School
Richard Warren Middle School
Rockhurst High School
Saint Elizabeth’s Catholic School
Saint James Academy High School
Saint Joseph Catholic School
Saint Michael the Archangel
Catholic High School
Saint Thomas Aquinas Catholic High School
Shawnee Mission East High School
Shawnee Mission North High School
Shawnee Mission Northwest High School
Shawnee Mission South High School
Shawnee Mission West High School
St. Athanasius and St. Catherine’s Academy
Summit Christian Academy
Summit Lakes Middle School
Sumner Academy of Arts and Science
Sunset Ridge Elementary School
Timber Creek Elementary School
Topeka West High School
Trailridge Middle School
Trailwood Elementary School
Truman High School
Van Horn High School
Walden Middle School
West Middle School
Westridge Middle School
Wyandotte High School

Incorporated in 1958, YSKC has enjoyed a vibrant history as the musical home to students in Kansas City.

YSKC is the premier youth orchestra program in the region. On average, approximately 400 musicians in grades 4-12 participate annually in its four large orchestras and the YSKC Academy, which includes introductory and advanced chamber music ensembles, elective classes and workshops led by the Opus 76 Quartet and area educators.

Every opportunity provides quality music education experiences to young musicians representing 113 schools and 57 communities across Kansas and Missouri.



YOUTH SYMPHONY
of KANSAS CITY,

Looking forward to another great season!

CONTRIBUTORS

To learn more about ways you or your company can support Youth Symphony of Kansas City, please contact our Philanthropy and Partnerships Advisor, Reachel Beichley at growth@yskc.org

Listings include contributions received from October 1, 2024 - October 15, 2025. Youth Symphony of Kansas City strives to acknowledge each of its generous contributors accurately. We regret any errors or omissions.

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in Honor of Sandra (Day) Stokesbary
April and Gary Long
Steven Murray
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Shubha Raja
Kristen Smaglik
Shand and Deena Smith
in Memory of Lisa Lister
Craig and Barbra Woolery

2025-2026 SEASON ENDOWED CHAIRS:

Alexander Hirsch. Philharmonic
Anthony Seck. Symphony
Aoi Morita. Classical
Caleb Park. Symphony
Daniel Chang. Symphony
Eleanor Haberland. Debut
Gia Gabriele. Debut
Harper Cranford. Debut
Hattie Winter. Classical
Isabelle Bae. Philharmonic
Kimora Heath. Symphony
Manasvi Matta. Classical
Matthew Bryan. Symphony
Michael Li. Debut
Noah Floyd. Symphony
Rhianna Marney. Classical
Zachary Rephlo. Classical

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2025/2026 CONCERTS



Sunday, November 09
FALL CONCERTS



Monday, March 09
KC CLASSIC FESTIVAL



Saturday, May 02
SPRING CONCERTS

DETAILS AND TICKETS:
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