



## CONDUCTING APPRENTICES 2026 AUDITIONS PACKET

---



### ***Program Description***

The **Conducting Apprenticeship** program gives up to four (4) talented high school junior and/or senior music students the chance to study the many facets of conducting, learn from master teachers, as well as observe and participate in rehearsals led by Brian Worsdale (Director, *Kids on Stage*).

The program connects with Kids on Stage, a free performance-based initiative for middle school band and orchestra students, which guides young musicians through the professional audition and rehearsal process and culminates in a performance at Carnegie Hall alongside The New York Pops at our annual Birthday Gala, led by New York Pops Music Director and Conductor Steven Reineke!

**Following an application and audition process, 22 student musicians, and up to four (4) conducting students, will be selected to participate in:**

- Five sectional and large-group rehearsals, including four led by The New York Pops musicians and PopsEd Teaching Artists, with one rehearsal conducted by New York Pops Music Director and Conductor Steven Reineke.
- Dress rehearsal and Gala performance alongside The New York Pops at Carnegie Hall (note: Conducting Apprentices will observe dress rehearsal and attend the performance)
- Interviews for the opportunity to be awarded one of **26** scholarships to French Woods Festival for the Performing Arts summer camp.

**Conducting Apprentices** may also receive additional evening masterclasses via Zoom (dates TBD), covering topics such as beat patterns, score reading, score study, conductor observations and interviews with conductors and educators.

The New York Pops  
39 Broadway, Suite 1150  
New York, NY 10006  
Phone: 212-765-7677 [www.newyorkpops.org](http://www.newyorkpops.org)



THE NEW YORK  
**POPS**  
A DIFFERENT KIND OF ORCHESTRA



## **IMPORTANT DATES**

Applicants must be available for ALL of the following activities:

- Auditions - Sunday, February 8, 11am-5pm timeframe (applicant to choose specific time)
- Group Activity—Observing a TNYP Orchestra Rehearsal – Thursday, March 12 (for Conducting Apprentices only, not required, but strongly encouraged, approximately 9:45 AM-1:30PM)
- Group Activity - Friday, March 13 (6:30pm dinner and TNYP concert at Carnegie Hall)
- Rehearsal 1 - Sunday, March 15, 12-3pm
- Rehearsal 2 - Sunday, March 22, 12-3pm
- Rehearsal 3 - Sunday, March 29, 12-3pm
- Rehearsal 4 - Sunday, April 19, 12-3pm (w/ Music Director & Conductor Steven Reineke)
- Rehearsal 5 - Sunday, April 26, 12-3pm
- GALA rehearsal and performance - Monday, April 27 (students will need to be released from school early to attend dress rehearsal at Carnegie Hall), approximately 12-4pm and 6:30 PM call time

## **Conducting Workshop and Interview**

Conducting Apprentice applicants will be required to attend a 30-minute workshop at 12:00pm on Sunday, February 8, 2026. This will be followed by the interview. Applicants will need to select a timeslot to be interviewed.

The workshop and interview will be held at [PianoPiano Studios, 37 W 65th St 4th Floor, New York, NY 10023](#)

*Please note that once you select a timeslot, it cannot be changed.*

## **EXPECTATIONS**

Below is a rundown of what to expect on the day:

- We suggest arriving 15-20 minutes prior to the workshop.
- When you arrive at the venue, you will be greeted by the PopsEd check-in team.
- Upon check-in you will receive a name tag. You will then be escorted to the workshop room.
- After the workshop, you will wait in the audition holding room for your interview.
- A room-runner will call your name when it is your turn to interview.

The New York Pops  
39 Broadway, Suite 1150  
New York, NY 10006  
Phone: 212-765-7677 [www.newyorkpops.org](http://www.newyorkpops.org)



THE NEW YORK  
**POPS**  
A DIFFERENT KIND OF ORCHESTRA



Interview questions may include:

- Tell us a bit about yourself and your musical aspirations.
- Why have you applied for this apprenticeship?
- What skills can you bring to this role?
- What do you think a conductor does?
- How will learning conducting strengthen your skills as a musician?
- How have your musical or life experiences prepared you to be a conductor?
- What are you looking to gain from this apprenticeship?

### **Results**

Interview results will be sent via email during the week commencing **Tuesday, February 17**, and will not be available over the phone.

For any questions about the process, please don't hesitate to contact [ganling.chu@nypops.org](mailto:ganling.chu@nypops.org)

Thank you, and good luck!

The New York Pops  
39 Broadway, Suite 1150  
New York, NY 10006  
Phone: 212-765-7677 [www.newyorkpops.org](http://www.newyorkpops.org)



THE NEW YORK  
**POPS**  
A DIFFERENT KIND OF ORCHESTRA