

CONDUCTING APPRENTICESHIP 2026-2027 PROGRAM INFORMATION



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 masterclasses, covering topics such as beat patterns, score reading, score study, conductor observations, and interviews with conductors and educators.



IMPORTANT DATES

Applicants must be available for ALL of the following activities:

- Auditions - Sunday, February 7, 11am-5pm timeframe (applicant to choose specific time)
- Group Activity - Friday, March 5 (call time for *Kids on Stage* students: 6:00pm; Conducting Apprentices: 4:15pm)
- Rehearsal 1 - Sunday, March 21, 12-3pm
- Rehearsal 2 - Sunday, April 4, 12-3pm
- Rehearsal 3 - Sunday, April 11, 12-3pm
- Rehearsal 4 - Sunday, April 18, 12-3pm (with TNYP Conductor Steven Reineke)
- Rehearsal 5 - Sunday, April 25, 12-3pm
- GALA rehearsal and performance - Monday, April 26 (students will need to be released from school early to attend dress rehearsal at Carnegie Hall), approximately 12-4pm and 6:30pm call time

CONDUCTING APPRENTICESHIP INTERVIEWS

The New York Pops will send interview invitations via email on **Monday, January 12**, to eligible applicants that complete all application requirements

Conducting Apprentice applicants will be required to attend a 30-minute workshop (TBD) on Sunday, February 7, 2027. 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 10 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
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Preparation

No prepared piece is required. Familiarity with basic beat patterns and common musical terms, as well as a strong sense of pulse and rhythm, is ideal.

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 **Monday, February 15**, and will not be available over the phone.

For any questions about the process, please don't hesitate to contact ganling.chu@nypops.org

Thank you, and good luck!

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