



Kids on Stage FAQ

How does my child apply?

Applications are available online at newyorkpops.org/kids-on-stage. To apply, simply click the red “**APPLY HERE**” button on the page. This will direct you to the Acceptd website, where you can complete and submit the application form.

When do applications close?

Deadline is Friday, December 19, 2025. No late applications will be considered.

When are the auditions?

Auditions will be held on Sunday, February 8, 2026.

Where will the auditions be held?

PianoPiano Rehearsal Studios, 37 W 65th St 4th Floor, New York, NY 10023

If my child is unable to attend the audition day, are we able to submit a video?

We are unable to accept video submissions.

My child is an exceptional musician, but they are not in Grades 6-8. Can they still audition?

Unfortunately, no, the instrumental program is for middle-school musicians only. The Conducting Apprenticeship is for juniors and seniors in high school only.

We live on Long Island/Westchester/New Jersey, etc. Can our child audition?

Unfortunately, no, the program is for New York City-based school students only.

Can my child still apply to audition if they are not available for one or more of the rehearsal dates?

Due to the intensive nature of the program, attendance is mandatory at all rehearsals.

My child has participated in the program before. Can they apply again?

Yes, if they are still in Grades 6-8, they may apply for the instrumental program, or if in Grade 11 or 12 they can apply to interview for the Conducting Apprenticeship.

My child has auditioned before and was unsuccessful. Can they apply again?

Yes, if they are still in Grades 6-8, we encourage them to try again!

How long do the personal essays have to be?

150-250 words will suffice.

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Can we email the recommendation letter?

Yes, letters can be emailed to ganling.chu@nypops.org . Letters must be submitted no later than the deadline of Friday, December 19, 2025. If teachers wish to mail the letter, give them our office address, 39 Broadway, Suite 1150, New York, NY 10006, Attn: PopsEd, but let them know they must be date-stamped no later than 12/19.

Can the recommendation letter be from a family member?

No. Recommendation letters must come from a private music teacher or school music teacher, preferably on letterhead.

What level do the students have to be at?

We encourage all students to apply (NYSSMA — Level 3 or 4 is preferred.)

Can pianists or vocalists apply?

Unfortunately, piano and vocals are not applicable. The following instruments *are* applicable:

- Flute
- Clarinet
- Oboe
- Bassoon
- Saxophone (alto, tenor, baritone)
- Trumpet
- French Horn
- Trombone
- Euphonium
- Tuba
- Percussion (mallet and auxiliary)
- Violin
- Viola
- Cello
- Double Bass

Will there be an accompanist at the auditions?

All auditions will be unaccompanied.

After the auditions, when will we find out if we are successful?

Audition results will be emailed starting **Tuesday, February 17, 2026**, and will not be available over the phone.