



Kids on Stage FAQ

How does my child apply?

Applications are available online at www.newyorkpops.org/kids-on-stage – on the page, click on the red box labeled “APPLY HERE” to access the Accepted application form.

When do applications close?

Deadline is Friday, December 18, 2026. No late applications will be considered.

When are the auditions?

Auditions will be held on Sunday, February 7, 2027.

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 for Kids on Stage applicants. However, Conducting Apprentices may have their interview via Zoom on a case-by-case basis.

My child is an exceptional musician, but they are not in Grades 6-8 or 11-12. Can they still audition for Kids on Stage?

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 that live within the five boroughs.

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.

The New York Pops
39 Broadway, Suite 1150
New York, NY 10006
Phone: 212-765-7677 www.newyorkpops.org



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 each of the personal essays have to be?

150-250 words will suffice. No generative AI tools are allowed. All essays must be written by the student.

Can we email the recommendation letter?

Yes, letters can be emailed to ganling.chu@nypops.org or submitted directly through Acceptd. Letters must be submitted no later than the deadline of Friday, December 18, 2026.

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).

What are the audition requirements?

Students will be required to prepare scales or rudiments and excerpts and to sight-read on the day of the audition. For specific scale or rudiment requirements for each instrument, please visit this link: <https://newyorkpops.org/kids-on-stage/> or check the “Resources” tab on the [Acceptd website](#). Prepared excerpts will be posted after students are invited to audition on Monday, January 11, 2027.

Can pianists or vocalists apply?

Unfortunately, piano and vocals are not applicable. The following instruments *are* applicable for Kids on Stage:

- 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 **Monday, February 15, 2026**, and will not be available over the phone.

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