

KIDS ON STAGE 2027 – AUDITION INFORMATION



Program Description

Kids on Stage is a **FREE** comprehensive program that provides middle school orchestra and band students access to the professional performance process from the first audition to the final note. Rehearsals are led by Brian Worsdale (Director, *Kids on Stage*), with the experience culminating onstage at Carnegie Hall alongside The New York Pops musicians at our annual Birthday Gala, led by New York Pops Music Director and Conductor Steven Reineke!

In addition to *Kids on Stage*, the **Conducting Apprenticeship** program gives up to four (4) lucky 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.

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, TBC (10:30am-1:30pm, 11:00am-2:00pm, or 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

AUDITIONS

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

The auditions will be held on Sunday, February 7 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

We want you to shine during the audition process! Below is a rundown of what to expect on the day. What to bring:

- Instrument
- Music
- Bottle of water

Please do not arrive more than 10 minutes before your audition timeslot, as space inside the premises is limited.

When you arrive at the audition venue, you will be greeted by the PopsEd check-in team.

1. Upon check-in you will receive a name tag. You will then be escorted to the holding room, where you can warm up and get ready for your audition.
2. A room-runner will call your name when it is your turn to head to the audition room.
3. Before you enter the audition room, make sure to take a slow, deep breath.
4. When you enter the room, be confident, smile and introduce yourself to the panelists.
5. Once you are positioned at the music stand, your audition begins!

The New York Pops
39 Broadway, Suite 1150
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AUDITION REQUIREMENTS

Students will be required to prepare the following:

1. SCALES OR RUDIMENTS

Panelists will be looking for overall accuracy. They will look at how you hold and place your fingers on your instrument, listening for how low and high you can play, how comfortable you are with each scale chosen, and how well you can play in tune and in time.

- **BRASS AND WIND APPLICANTS:**

Prepare and memorize the below scales. Judges will select **any two (2) major** scales from the below to play in your audition. Minimum tempo is MM *quarter note* = 100.

C, F, B-flat, E-flat, G, D and A. One octave, up and down.

- **STRING APPLICANTS:**

Prepare and memorize the below scales. Judges will select **any two (2) major** scales from the below to play in your audition. Minimum tempo is MM *quarter note* = 100.

Violin, Viola, and Cello: **C, F, B-flat, A, G and D. Two octaves, 4 notes slurred up and down.**

Double Bass: **C, A, G, and D. One octave and 2 notes slurred up and down.**

- **PERCUSSION APPLICANTS**

Percussion applicants are required to prepare both auxiliary and mallet requirements:

- **Auxiliary**

Rolls: Both are required and must be memorized.

- Rudimental Long Roll: (Open-Closed-Open); 30 second time limit
- Orchestral (Buzz) Roll: (pp-ff-pp); sustained sound; 15 second time limit

Rudiments: Select two (2) rudiments from the below. 15 second time limit;

- Flam
- Ruff/Drag
- Single Paradiddle
- Ratamacue

MM *quarter note* = 80. Panelists will be looking for overall accuracy. They will be watching your hands, listening for steadiness and groove, and looking for the correct rudiment patterns.

- **Mallet**

Please prepare the following four (4) major Marimba one octave scales: **C, F, B flat, and E flat.** See at the end of this information package.

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2. PREPARED EXCERPTS

Students will be required to prepare a couple of excerpts. Excerpts will be posted after students are invited to audition on Monday, January 11, 2027.

3. SIGHTREADING

A sight-reading exercise will also be presented during the audition. When sight-reading, always be aware of the time signatures, the key signature, and (depending on your instrument) the clefs in use.

Additional details

Auditions should last between 7-10 minutes per person. Once you have completed your audition, the panel will thank you for your audition, and you will be escorted back to the holding room to collect your instrument case, personal items, etc.

Due to time constraints, panelists are not able to offer feedback during the audition. However, after audition results are released, you may reach out to PopsEd staff for any feedback notes that panelists may have written during the process.

Audition Results

Audition results will be sent via email during the week starting **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!

