

KIDS ON STAGE 2026 – AUDITIONS PACKET



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 evening masterclasses via Zoom (dates TBD), 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 8, 11am-5pm timeframe (applicant to choose specific time)
- 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

AUDITIONS

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

The auditions will be held on Sunday, February 8 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

We suggest arriving 15-20 minutes prior to your audition.

Please do not arrive more than 30 minutes before your audition timeslot.

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
New York, NY 10006

Phone: 212-765-7677 www.newyorkpops.org



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AUDITION REQUIREMENTS

Students will be required to play scales/rudiments (see below for instrument) and a prepared piece.

- **BRASS, WINDS, AND STRING APPLICANTS:**

Scales: Prepare and memorize the below scales. Judges will select **any two (2) major** scales from the below to play in your audition.

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

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

SStrings: C, F, B-flat, A, G and D. Two octaves, 4 notes slurred up and down. (Bass 2 notes slurred up and down)

Minimum tempo is MM *quarter note* = 100.

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.

- **AUXILIARY PERCUSSION APPLICANTS**

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 PERCUSSION APPLICANTS**

Scales: Please prepare all four Marimba scales provided in the audition packet.





- **ALL INSTRUMENT APPLICANTS**

Prepared Piece: Students are to prepare the below allocated measures in the provided etude for their instrument.

Instruments	Measures
Flute, Violin, Oboe, Clarinet, Trumpet	Liberty Bell – Beginning until m.20 Celtic Air and Dance – mm. 37-52
Viola	Liberty Bell – mm.71-94 Celtic Air and Dance – mm. 59-67
Bassoon, Bass Clarinet, Trombone, Euphonium, Tuba, Baritone, Cello, Double Bass	Liberty Bell – mm. 71-94 Celtic Air and Dance – mm. 16-34 and mm. 59 to the End
Alto Sax	Liberty Bell – mm.39-55 and mm.71-94 Celtic Air and Dance – mm. 41-52
Tenor Sax	Liberty Bell – mm. 71-94 Celtic Air and Dance – mm. 16-34 and mm. 59-67
French Horn	Liberty Bell – mm. 71-94 Celtic Air and Dance –mm. 59 to the End
Mallet Percussion	Celtic Air and Dance – mm. 14-34 Etude
Auxiliary Percussion	Liberty Bell – mm. 5-39 Celtic Air and Dance – mm. 35-67

All auditions are unaccompanied.

A sight-reading exercise may 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.

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 **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

Thank you, and good luck!

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New York, NY 10006
Phone: 212-765-7677 www.newyorkpops.org



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THE LIBERTY BELL

PART 3
Viola

JOHN PHILIP SOUSA
Arranged by JAY BOCOOK

Alla marcia

7 *ff* *p* *mf* *p* *mf* *p* *ff* *mp* *(mp) - ff* *mf* *ff* *p* *mf* *p* *mf* *p* *mf*

PART 3
Viola

63



71

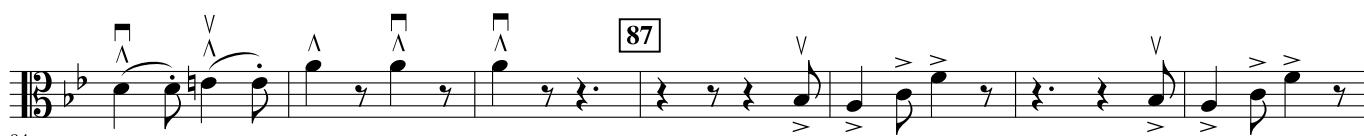


79



77

87



84

95



91

CELTIC AIR AND DANCE

PART 3
Viola

Arranged by MICHAEL SWEENEY

Slowly **Moderately** **2**

mp *mf* *f* *rit.*

6 "The Parting Glass"
Wws./Strgs. preferred

mp

11 *rit.* **2** **A Tempo**

16 Brass preferred **All**

mf *f* *mf*

22 *f* *mf* *mp* **25**

27 *mf* *f* **Slowing**

32 *mf* **Faster** *mp* Wws./Strgs. preferred stagger bowings as needed

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Celtic Air and Dance - 1

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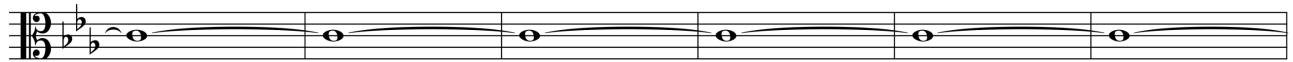
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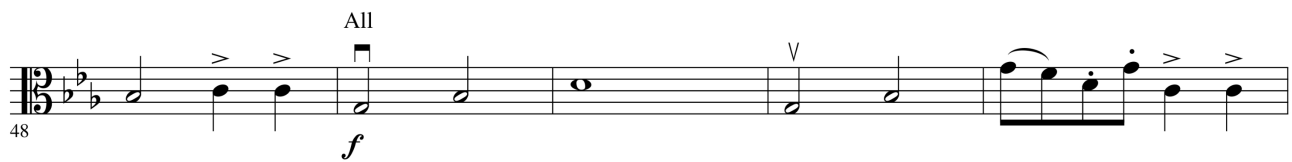


PART 3
Viola

37 "Tha Mi Sgith (A Fairy's Love Song)"



45 Brass preferred



7

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Celtic Air and Dance - 2

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