

UTAH SYMPHONY
2025 YOUTH ORCHESTRA FESTIVAL
RULES AND REGULATIONS

Each year Utah Symphony invites youth orchestras from around the state to perform on stage at Abravanel Hall in a Youth Orchestra Festival. **The 2025 Youth Orchestra Festival will be on February 24.**

IMPORTANT DATES:

January 24	Deadline to apply
January 30	Schedule announced
February 18	Deadline to submit roster and equipment needs
February 24	Youth Orchestra Festival held at Abravanel Hall

ELIGIBILITY

Junior and senior youth orchestras in Utah are eligible to apply. Each performing member of the group must be a student (18 or under). Priority will be given to groups in good standing that participated in 2024; new groups will be admitted if space allows on a first-come-first-served basis.

REGISTRATION:

The registration form for this festival can be found on our website. Please note the following rules:

1. Each orchestra will have 30 minutes on stage. You may utilize the full 30 minutes or a portion thereof. This includes set up, tuning, performance, and time to exit the stage; music should only take about 20 minutes of your total time. Failure to adhere to the time limit will jeopardize your future participation in the festival.
2. **We require orchestras to submit their repertoire selections and timings at the time of the application.** Your list should include the following information **for each piece**:
 - Piece title
 - Composer
 - Approximate timing
 - Equipment needed (if any)
3. Repertoire must stay within the time limit (approximately 20 minutes of music). Repertoire selections that do not stay within the time limit will be rejected. Orchestras without approved repertoire selections will not be allowed to participate. Any repertoire changes must be made via email before February 18.
4. All junior orchestras will be scheduled during the morning, as well as some senior orchestras. Groups primarily made of high school students are considered senior orchestras; groups primarily made of junior high or middle school students are considered junior orchestras.
5. As part of your application, we ask that you provide a roster of schools that your students attend. This is helpful for us in grant reporting purposes and helps us continue providing services such as this for schools. By February 18, please send a list to Beth Foley (bfoley@usuo.org) including what schools your students go to and approximately how many students in your group go to each school. You should only include students who will be participating in the festival.

Example:

School	District	Students
West High School	SLC	6
American Preparatory Academy WV1	Charter	4
Homeschool	N/A	2

EQUIPMENT:

Utah Symphony and the Festival will provide the following equipment:

- Chairs
- Stands
- Timpani (4)
- Bass drum
- Chimes
- Piano/mallet instruments upon request

Individual groups are responsible for:

- All mallets (including timpani and bass drum mallets)
- Small percussion equipment (such as cymbals, tambourines, triangles, etc.)

Chairs and stands will remain on stage for the duration of the festival. If you would like to move the chairs and stands, please take that time into account when planning your repertoire. Please make any equipment requests no later than February 18.

EXPECTATIONS:

This festival offers youth orchestras an opportunity to perform on stage at Abravanel Hall but it also offers groups the valuable opportunity to hear their peers perform. To help create a positive experience for all involved please read the following expectations carefully and convey applicable information to students and parents.

1. Please plan to listen to other groups perform.
2. Do not enter or leave the hall during any performance. Large groups will be asked to enter between performance blocks (every 30 minutes) in order to minimize disruptions.
3. Parents and other spectators will have designated sections to sit in. There will be no access to the tiers.
4. As always, no food or drink in the concert hall. Silence cell phones and keep conversation to a minimum.
5. Any groups or individuals that are disruptive or disrespectful will be asked to leave the hall.
6. Instrument cases must be stored in the back rows of the concert hall. It is very disruptive for students to move or open their instrument cases while another group is performing. Students will only be allowed to drop off or pick up instruments or cases between performance blocks (every 30 minutes). Please plan ahead.
7. There will be a mid-day lunch break. Groups that are staying for the morning and afternoon session will be allowed to eat lunch in the lobby of Abravanel Hall. Disruptive or disrespectful behavior in the lobby will not be tolerated.
8. Utah Symphony competitions and festivals are designed to provide a rewarding educational experience to students whose hard work and dedication has already been proven. Performers, parents, and teachers share in the responsibility of upholding these standards. Anyone interfering with procedures; using abusive or offensive language; or making disrespectful remarks concerning performers, parents, teachers, staff, volunteers, or the festival is strictly prohibited. Any behavior deemed by Utah Symphony administration to degrade the high quality of courtesy and musicianship expected of those invited to perform may result in disqualification for the current and/or future years.