

UTAH SYMPHONY
2025-26 YOUTH ORCHESTRA FESTIVAL
RULES AND REGULATIONS

Each year Utah Symphony invites community youth orchestras from around the state to participate in the Utah Symphony Youth Orchestra Festival. During this festival students get the opportunity to perform and hear their peers perform on the Abravanel Hall stage. **The 2026 Youth Orchestra Festival is January 27.**

IMPORTANT DATES:

December 12	Application deadline
December 17	Schedule announced
January 20	Deadline to submit roster, equipment needs, and repertoire changes
January 27	Youth Orchestra Festival held at Abravanel Hall

ELIGIBILITY:

- **NEW FOR 25-26:** Community youth orchestras based in Utah are eligible to apply. School orchestras are not eligible to apply.
- Each performing member of the group must be a student (18 or under); if you feel that your orchestra needs an exception to this rule, please email bfoley@usuo.org before applying.
- Applying does not guarantee a performance time at the Festival. Priority will be given to groups that participated in 2025, apply by the deadline, and are in good standing (i.e. in previous years they have met all deadlines and stayed within their allotted time limit). New groups will be admitted if space allows on a first-come-first-served basis.

SCHEDULE:

1. The festival will run from 9 AM to 5 PM on Tuesday, January 27.
2. Groups primarily made of high school students are considered in the Senior Division and will mostly be scheduled in the afternoon; groups primarily made of junior high or middle school students are considered in the Junior Division and will mostly be scheduled during the morning.

REPERTOIRE:

1. We require orchestras to submit their repertoire selections and timings as part of the application. Your list should include the following information **for each piece**:
 - Piece title
 - Composer (and arranger, if applicable)
 - Approximate timing
 - Equipment needed (if any)
2. Repertoire selections must stay within the 20-minute time limit.
 - Though each group will have 30 minutes on stage only up to 20 minutes should be allocated to music. Stage time includes set up, tuning, performance, and time to exit the stage. Failure to adhere to the time limit on the day of will jeopardize your future participation in the festival. Applications with repertoire selections that do not stay within the time limit will be rejected.
3. Repertoire changes will be accepted as long as the program stays within the time limit and changes are made via email by January 20.

STUDENT ROSTER:

Please provide a roster listing the schools and districts of each student in your group (see example below). Include only students who will be participating in the festival. We use this information for grant reporting purposes which helps us continue providing services such as this festival for schools. Please send this roster by January 20 to bfoley@usuo.org.

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Example Student Roster:

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

EQUIPMENT:

1. 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.
2. Utah Symphony will provide the following equipment:
 - a. Chairs
 - b. Stands
 - c. Timpani (4)
 - d. Bass drum
 - e. Tubular bells
 - f. Additional instruments (piano, keyboard percussion instruments, tam-tam, drums) may be provided upon request. Please submit your equipment requests via email no later than January 20.
3. Youth Orchestras are responsible for:
 - a. All mallets (including timpani and bass drum mallets)
 - b. Small percussion equipment (such as cymbals, tambourines, triangles, etc.)

EXPECTATIONS:

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. 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.
4. Parents and other spectators will have designated sections to sit in. All seating is orchestra level, there is no access to the tiers.
5. As always, no food or drink in the concert hall. Silence cell phones and keep conversation to a minimum.
6. Any groups or individuals that are disruptive or disrespectful will be asked to leave the hall.
7. There will be no lunch break in the schedule, however, students will be allowed to eat lunch in the lobby of Abravanel Hall during the Festival. Disruptive or disrespectful behavior in the lobby will not be tolerated.
8. Events like this 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 or volunteers 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.