

UTAH SYMPHONY

2026 SIDE BY SIDE INFORMATION

Utah Symphony invites high school aged students (grades 10-12) to audition to play in a concert side by side with Utah Symphony musicians. This unique experience gives students valuable mentorship from world-class musicians as well as the opportunity to perform next to them on the Abravanel Hall stage. Students will have rehearsals with Utah Symphony Assistant Conductor Jessica Rivero Altarriba, Creative Partner David Robertson, and Music Director Designate Markus Poschner as well sectional coachings with Utah Symphony musicians. Students will then perform side by side with Utah Symphony under the direction of Markus Poschner on Tuesday, May 19 at 7:30 PM.

IMPORTANT DATES

February 13	Deadline to submit application, payment, and recording
February 25	Selected students announced

Selected students will be expected to attend the following:

April 14	6:30 – 8:30 PM	Rehearsal with Jessica Altarriba
April 21	6:30 – 8:30 PM	Rehearsal with Jessica Altarriba
April 27	6:30 – 8:30 PM	Rehearsal with David Robertson
May 4	6:30 – 8:30 PM	Sectionals with Utah Symphony Musicians and Social
May 12	6:30 – 8:30 PM	Rehearsal with Jessica Altarriba
May 18	6:30 – 8:30 PM	Rehearsal with Markus Poschner
May 19	6 – 9 PM	Rehearsal & Performance at Abravanel Hall

Rehearsal locations are to be announced but will all happen in Salt Lake City.

ELIGIBILITY

1. Must be a Utah resident and have a valid Utah mailing address.
 - Residency is defined as having lived in Utah for a *continuous* 12 months prior to submission of the application, and/or being claimed as a dependent for tax purposes by a Utah resident.
 - Participants must also be living full-time in Utah from April 14 – May 19, 2026.
2. Must be in 10th, 11th, or 12th grade.
3. Must be actively enrolled in an instrumental ensemble at your high school. Exceptions will be made if your school does not offer instrumental ensemble classes.

APPLICATION & FEES

Applications, payment, and recordings must be submitted by February 13, 2026. There are three steps that must be completed by this date:

1. **Fill out online application.** After submitting the application, you will receive a confirmation email with a link to pay your application fee and a link to upload your recording.
2. **Pay a nonrefundable application fee of \$10.** The fee is per applicant, not per recording (i.e. you do not need to pay the fee twice if you are auditioning on two instruments). Need-based fee waivers are available.
3. **Upload your audition recording.** See the audition materials and recording guidelines below.

AUDITION MATERIALS AND RECORDING GUIDELINES

1. The recorded audition will have two parts:
 - The **excerpt** for your instrument which can be found in the 'Audition Excerpts' PDF on our website. Most excerpts are taken from the repertoire that will be performed at the concert.
 - A **Solo or Etude** of your choice. Perform up to two minutes unaccompanied.
2. All audition recordings must be audio only, no video. No talking of any kind is allowed in the recording.
3. All of your audition materials should be submitted in one recording with a slight pause between each excerpt/selection. You should only upload one recording per instrument.
4. Label your recording with your instrument and full name. The names of the recordings will be changed to protect your anonymity before being adjudicated.
5. If you wish to audition on multiple instruments (e.g., percussion and timpani) you will need to upload one recording per instrument.
6. Recordings are listened to for the quality of your performance, not the quality of the recording; it is not necessary to have your recording professionally made.
7. Tips:
 - If you have multiple measures of rests in your excerpt/selection, you do not have to count every bar of rest. Just pause, and then continue on with the excerpt.
 - Listen to recordings of the piece before you begin learning the excerpt. This will give you an idea of tempo
 - Your solo or etude of your choice should last no longer than two minutes and should demonstrate your sound on a piece that you are familiar with.

REPERTOIRE

The repertoire for the 2026 Side-By-Side Concert has been selected by Utah Symphony Assistant Conductor, Jessica Rivero Altarriba. Utah Symphony will provide participants with copies of the sheet music. The pieces are as follows:

SIBELIUS	<i>Finlandia</i>
ELGAR	<i>Enigma Variations, Variation IX (Adagio) "Nimrod"</i>
TCHAIKOVSKY	Symphony No. 6, Movement 2
DVOŘÁK	Symphony No. 9, Movements 3 and 4

INSTRUMENTATION

Students may audition on the following instruments:

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| • Flute | • Trumpet | • Violin |
| • Oboe | • Trombone | • Viola |
| • Clarinet | • Tuba | • Cello |
| • Bassoon | • Timpani | • Bass |
| • French Horn | • Percussion | |

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

1. A committee of judges made up of Utah Symphony musicians is solely responsible for determining the individuals who will be selected to perform with Utah Symphony.
2. Judges receive no information about competitors' identities. At no time prior to or during the audition is anyone allowed to disclose to the judges any information regarding the finalists.
3. Any expenses related to audition or performance are the responsibility of the contestant.
4. Selection of participants by the audition committee is final.

5. **COURTESY AND SPORTSMANSHIP:** Utah Symphony competitions are designed to provide a rewarding educational experience to students whose hard work and dedication has already been proven. Students benefit greatly by learning to display proper and courteous behavior, even when faced with the stress of competition or the disappointment of not placing. Competitors, parents, and teachers share in the responsibility of upholding these standards. Interfering with contestants or competition procedures, using abusive or offensive language, or making disrespectful remarks concerning contestants, parents, teachers, judges, staff, volunteers or the competition instills in students values in direct opposition to those intended to have a learning experience in this competition. Any behavior deemed by Utah Symphony administration to degrade the high quality of courtesy and musicianship expected of those invited to compete may result in disqualification for the current and/or future years. This statement applies to students, parents, and teachers before, during, and after the competition.
6. **Failure to follow any of the above rules will lead to automatic disqualification from the audition or performance.**