# UTAH SYMPHONY | UTAH OPERA
# 2027 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 have the opportunity to perform and hear their peers perform on the Abravanel Hall stage. **The 2027 Youth Orchestra Festival is on January 25.**

**IMPORTANT DATES:**

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|---|---|
| November 25 | Application deadline |
| December 1 | Schedule announced |
| January 15 | Deadline to submit roster, equipment needs, and repertoire changes |
| January 25 | Youth Orchestra Festival held at Abravanel Hall |

**ELIGIBILITY:**

- 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 2026, 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:**

- **New for 2027:** Groups will have the option to select a 20-minute or 30-minute performance block to reduce down time on stage. Please select the block that will give your group enough time to enter, set up, tune, perform, and exit the stage.
- The festival will run from 9 AM to 5 PM on Monday, January 25 with a 45-minute lunch break.
- 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:**

- 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)
- Repertoire selections must stay within the time limit. Your performance block includes time for 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.
- Repertoire changes will be accepted as long as the program stays within the time limit and changes are made via email by January 15.

**RECORDINGS & PHOTOGRAPHS**

- Utah Symphony will continue offering families and directors the option to purchase a group photo (taken in the lobby) and a recording of their performance. We highly encourage you to purchase at least one photo and one recording per orchestra. The pricing is as follows:
    - A printed copy of the group photo OR a digital download: $20
    - A printed copy of the group photo AND a digital download: $30
    - A digital recording of the entire performance: $30

**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.

Example Student Roster:

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

**EQUIPMENT:**

- 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.
- Utah Symphony will provide the following equipment:
    - Chairs
    - Stands
    - Timpani (4)
    - Bass drum
    - Tubular bells
    - 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.
- Youth Orchestras are responsible for:
    - All mallets (including timpani and bass drum mallets)
    - 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.

- Please plan to listen to other groups perform.
- 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.
- 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.
- Parents and other spectators will have designated sections to sit in. All seating is orchestra level; there is no access to the tiers.

- As always, no food or drink in the concert hall. Silence cell phones and keep conversation to a minimum.
- Any groups or individuals that are disruptive or disrespectful will be asked to leave the hall.
- Parents and 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.
- 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 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.