



Kalamazoo Kids in Tune is an orchestra-based youth development program modeled after the Venezuelan youth orchestra program known as El Sistema. The program is a collaboration of Kalamazoo Symphony Orchestra, Communities in Schools of Kalamazoo, and Kalamazoo Public Schools.

The program engages 1st-5th grade students in supportive, intensive, ensemble-based instrumental music study and additional musical learning activities such as musicianship, choir, bucket band, and recorder. The teaching and learning environment of KKIT is unique and requires instructors and staff who fully understand and embrace the ideals of the program.

The following teaching positions are available beginning in September 2013:

- Orchestra Conductor
- Choir Director
- Director of Strings/Lead Violin Instructor
- Lead Viola Instructor
- Lead Bass Instructor
- Lead Flute Instructor
- Lead Trumpet Instructor
- Lead Percussion Instructor
- Lead Musicianship Instructor

Combined roles, such as Conductor or Musicianship Instructor with an Instrumental position, will be considered based on qualifications.

Qualified applicants for all positions will have:

- Professional musical experience, including extensive orchestral experience (for instrumental studios)
- Significant relevant teaching experience
- Excellent youth development skills, flexibility and responsiveness to the needs of students, and a passion for the social and musical mission of the program.

All instructors are independent contractors with the Kalamazoo Symphony Orchestra. Hourly pay rate will be commensurate with experience.

Hours vary by position from two to four afternoons per week, with most activity taking place between 4:00-6:15pm, Monday-Thursday. (Orchestra rehearsals take place two days per week, opposite lesson/choir days.) Musicianship is taught daily. Additional nights and weekends are required for special events, concerts, and field trips. Staff meetings are required and scheduled according to availability of staff, usually on Fridays.

Position Overviews

Conductor

- Lead orchestra rehearsals and sectionals
- Collaborate with the Curriculum Director to select appropriate repertoire and create arrangements, and develop units that connect orchestral activities to lessons, choir, musicianship and other activities
- Lead students and staff in the development of an energetic and fun, but serious and highly dedicated orchestral culture
- Maintain high expectations for rehearsal etiquette
- Communicate closely with Lead Instructors to plan and facilitate sectionals, rehearsals, concerts, and special events
- Create a positive and nurturing classroom environment, maintaining high standards for students' musical and social behavior

Choir Director

- Lead choir rehearsals, preparing students to perform choral works in concert
- Collaborate with the Curriculum Director to select appropriate repertoire, develop arrangements, and develop units that connect choral activities to orchestra, lessons, musicianship and other activities
- Teach healthy vocal production to elementary children
- Select skill- and age-appropriate music and sequencing for healthy vocal development
- Facilitate and oversee the work of teaching assistants and volunteers in the classroom
- Create a positive and nurturing classroom environment, maintaining high standards for students' musical and social behavior

Director of Strings/Lead Violin Instructor

- Oversee all string studios, developing unified teaching approaches for optimal student progress and identifying areas needing improvement or alignment
- Collaborate with the Curriculum Director and Orchestra Conductor to develop appropriate string activities that support the overall goals of the orchestral curriculum
- Select repertoire for occasional string orchestra performances and sectionals
- Lead and/or secure guest presenters for professional development workshops for string staff
- Manage string instrument inventory, ensure proper instrument maintenance and arrange for repairs
- Ensure that all needed equipment pertaining to string instruments (proper sized chairs, chin rests, rock stops, extra strings, spare bows, etc.) is available as needed
- Serve as Lead Violin Instructor, covering all responsibilities listed for Instrument Instructors below
- Create a positive and nurturing classroom environment, maintaining high standards for students' musical and social behavior

Instrumental Instructors

- Develop and teach engaging group lessons that establish healthy routines and develop strong fundamental skills on the instrument, using a variety of strategies to engage children of all levels
- Collaborate with the Curriculum Director and Orchestra Conductor to develop appropriate activities that support the overall goals of the orchestral curriculum
- Facilitate and oversee the work of teaching assistants and volunteers in the classroom
- Keep instruments in working order; handle basic adjustments; teach proper instrument care; promptly request repairs, maintenance and needed supplies to ensure a quality learning environment
- Create a positive and nurturing classroom environment, maintaining high standards for students' musical and social behavior

Musicianship Instructor

- Teach pre-instrumental curriculum to 1st grade students during their first year in the program, including recorder, note reading, sol fege, basic tonal and rhythmic skills and introductory learning about the orchestra
- Collaborate with the Curriculum Director to develop units that connect musicianship activities to orchestra, lessons, choir and other activities; collaborate with the Dance instructor to develop connections around planned units and performances
- Design and lead activities for 1st grade instrument exploration to prepare students for the choices of instrument that will be available in 2nd grade
- Teach occasional special lessons to students in 2nd grade and up to reinforce musicianship concepts being addressed in lessons, choir and other activities
- Create a positive and nurturing classroom environment, maintaining high standards for students' musical and social behavior

To apply, send resume and cover letter to:

Liz Youker

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