

Greater Twin Cities Youth Symphonies (GTCYS)

Position: Teaching Artist (Violin & Cello positions available)
Status: Part-time; approximately 6-8 hours/week October – May, including 7:45am-9:30am for Tuesday-Thursday classes, plus time for faculty meetings, professional development, and some extra program activities
Reports to: Harmony Director

About Harmony

Now entering its fourth year, Harmony is an extra-curricular program of the Greater Twin Cities Youth Symphonies (GTCYS) in partnership with Riverview Elementary School on the West Side of St. Paul. This highly accessible program breaks down barriers to music instruction and creates opportunities for students to develop a love of music and become strong learners and leaders. In Harmony, students become part of a musical community and have a pathway for continued participation in GTCYS' orchestras as they advance.

In 2019-20, Harmony will provide violin and cello instruction for up to 60 3rd, 4th, and 5th graders from early October through mid-May. Students will meet three times a week before school from 8:00am-9:15am. Small group instruction (6-8 students per teaching artist) will take place Tuesdays and Wednesdays, with full sectionals on Thursdays; in the winter, sectionals will transition to orchestra day. During the school year, students will also participate in multiple performances on the West Side and at Orchestra Hall, and benefit from additional enrichment through field trips, concert outings, and retreats. Additional summer programming is likely.

About the Role

GTCYS seeks Teaching Artists (violin and cello) who will help first-time students develop a love of music and learn beginning violin/cello skills using Harmony's curriculum with small and large group instruction. The ideal candidates have 3+ years of teaching experience, preferably with underserved youth in a group or classroom setting. Successful Harmony teaching artists will have a passion for instrumental instruction, belief in equity and inclusion, resilience, and an appetite to help students overcome obstacles to succeed. Spanish-speaking teachers are preferred but not required.

Responsibilities

- Using Harmony's curriculum, teach 75-minute small group lessons to beginning students on Tuesdays and Wednesdays from 8:00am-9:15am
- Lead large group sectionals (violin or cello) with up to 15 students on Thursdays from 8:00am-9:15am
- On Thursday mornings beginning in winter, provide hands-on support to students during orchestra class conducted by the Harmony Director
- Attend bi-weekly Harmony faculty/staff meetings
- Make regular calls to families with progress reports and work with Harmony Manager and Assistant to evaluate students' progress
- Lead classes in a clear, positive, and inclusive manner to motivate students and promote joy, excellence, and engagement
- Utilize a range of behavior management techniques to meet students' varied needs and learning styles
- Set clear classroom expectations, behavior guidelines, and positive classroom culture with an emphasis on treating students equally and with an eye toward their success
- Create a safe space for students to participate, be heard, and learn from each other
- Lead students through schedule transitions at the beginning and end of Harmony classes
- Set up and restore classrooms at beginning and end of class as needed
- Direct and supervise any mentors, volunteers, and/or support staff in the classroom

- Participate in Harmony performances and special events as needed
- Support an inclusive, positive culture with staff and other faculty
- Maintain open communication with program staff and Riverview Elementary's staff regarding student behavior, facilities, and any issues that arise
- Understand and adhere to GTCYS' Child Protection Policy and any other policies set by the Executive and Artistic Directors
- Participate in ongoing professional development opportunities, including a week-long training for Harmony faculty the week of September 16, 2019
- Other duties as assigned

Desired Qualifications, Attributes, and Expectations

- Bachelor's degree in music education, violin performance, or related field
- 3+ years of successful violin or cello teaching experience, ideally in a group setting
- Ability to teach beginning-level violin or cello pedagogy and motivate 8-10 year-old students in a small and large group settings
- Willingness to follow Harmony's curriculum and adapt daily plans to changing circumstances
- Knowledge of and experience working with diverse populations, including students and families with minimal knowledge of instrumental music
- Strong classroom/group management skills and comfort level working in a diverse public elementary school classroom setting
- Oversee safe use and care of instruments during classes
- Resilience and ability to adapt, improvise, and take initiative in ever-changing situations
- Ability to uphold student-related policies and procedures, and follow through with consequences
- Strong interpersonal and communication skills to work collaboratively and demonstrate empathy, patience, and humility with fellow staff, program partners, families, volunteers, and community members
- Ability to take direction and accept constructive feedback
- Ability to maintain a positive attitude and serve as an encouraging musical and adult role model with students
- Reliability and ability to commit to the year's program dates with minimal absences
- Spanish speaker preferred, but not required
- Must have reliable transportation to arrive on time to program activities
- Must successfully pass a background check

GTCYS is dedicated to building a culturally diverse and equitable environment. We strongly encourage applications from people of color and from populations underrepresented in the orchestra field.

To Apply

Please submit the following materials to executive director Megen Balda at megen@gtcys.org. Applications received by July 1 will receive priority consideration.

- Letter of interest describing relevant skills and experience, and your reason for applying
- Resume outlining your professional background
- List of three references with contact information