



NYYS welcomes applications for the Director of the NYYS Jazz, its 17-member brass-wind-and-percussion ensemble modeled on the big bands of the 1930's and 40's. It is one of the seven tuition-free programs offered by the New York Youth Symphony. NYYS Jazz, previously known as Jazz Band Classic, started in 2002 with a mission to expose students to the original orchestrations and styles of bands led by Count Basie, Duke Ellington, Stan Kenton, and Benny Goodman, among others, as well as contemporary sounds which define the genre for the current generation. Andy Clausen has been the director of the program since 2016, and previous directors include Ryan Keberle and Matt Holman.

Program Description

Participation in the band is open by competitive audition each fall. Open to students between the ages of 12-22, the band is drawn from the metropolitan area's public and private schools and colleges. (The average age in recent years has been 18). Rehearsing weekly from October-May in NYC, band members prepare and perform at renowned venues, including Dizzy's Club, The Times Center, Birdland Jazz Club and the Appel Room at Jazz at Lincoln Center. Additional run-out performances take place in smaller venues throughout the city. As with the New York Youth Symphony's other programs, band members learn about the music's history, develop their technical and interpersonal skills, and explore career direction.

Enhancements

Additional projects have been developed to enrich the program, including the annual commissioning of three young American jazz composers, masterclass clinics led by the most illustrious professionals in jazz, and performances with guest artists, including recent guests Wycliffe Gordon, Maria Schneider, Melissa Aldana, Marcus Printup, Arturo O'Farrill, Jon Faddis, Sarah Elizabeth Charles, and many others. NYYS Jazz also participates in community outreach through partnerships with the Harmony Program and Youth Orchestra of St. Luke's. Fellowships are awarded to NYYS students from underrepresented communities to support them on their musical pathway, which come with professional mentors and a financial stipend.

Director Position

The director of NYYS Jazz oversees general artistic objectives, including concert programming, recruitment, audition and selection process of participants, rehearsals and performances, and program development (including the identification and recruitment of soloists, masterclass clinicians, etc). Additionally, the director is responsible for interacting with Trustees, staff, parents, teachers, music professionals, donors, and the general public. Furthermore, it is the responsibility of the director to ensure that the artistic quality of the group coincides with the consistently high standards and mission of the New York Youth Symphony. The director supervises the band manager and reports to the executive director.

The successful candidate has significant musical and professional maturity and is a strong musical leader and educator. They must have a thorough knowledge of big band history and tradition, especially the music of the Swing Era, and a commitment to passing them both on to the next generation.

This is a salaried, part-time position of approximately 20-30 hours per month. The director must be present at Sunday evening rehearsals, held at the NYYS offices in midtown Manhattan. Rehearsals run 5:00-8:00pm between October and May. Non-performance months are used for planning and recruitment. The director must be present at Sunday evening rehearsals. Performances are scheduled in conjunction with the director's schedule, but are generally held on Mondays in December, March, and May.

Selection Process: Applications are due October 15, 2022 following which selected candidates will be invited for interviews on December 1, 2022. Finalists will be invited to live auditions with the NYYS Jazz band on February 12, 2023.

Application Process: Please submit an application including a cover letter, resume, links to performances, and up to 3 letters of recommendation. Merge all materials into 1 pdf and upload to [dropbox here](#). Video links should be of the candidate leading a jazz ensemble.

NYYS is an Equal Opportunity Employer. Candidates from diverse and historically underrepresented communities are encouraged to apply.

The New York Youth Symphony (NYYS) is one of the most awarded youth programs of its kind in the nation, recognized for its innovative, educational programs for talented young musicians in the greater NYC area. Founded in 1963 as an orchestra to showcase the metropolitan area's most gifted musicians ages 12-22, its activities have since grown to encompass programs in chamber music, conducting, composition, jazz, and musical theater songwriting with performances at world class venues including Carnegie Hall and Jazz at Lincoln Center plus international touring. Visit www.nyys.org for more information.