



Position Description: P.L.A.Y Music Assistant Teaching Artist

Reports To: P.L.A.Y. Music Lead Teaching Artist

FLSA Status: Part-time Non-Exempt

Supervises: N/A

Date Prepared: December 2025

Review Date: August 2027

Position Summary

The Winston-Salem Symphony (WSS) P.L.A.Y. Music (Piedmont Learning Academy for Youth) Assistant Teaching Artist (TA) is responsible for assisting Lead TA's in providing high quality string or percussion pedagogy for beginning through advanced P.L.A.Y. Music Program students. Instructional efforts are based on the Lead TA's lesson plans which are informed by established curriculum and pedagogy. Assistant TA's support instruction between September and May, in alignment with the Winston-Salem/Forsyth County School System's calendar and may also have the opportunity to teach or support P.L.A.Y. Music summer programming, including summer camps or intensives, as offered.

Assistant TA's work closely with Lead TA's, Senior Lead TA's, the P.L.A.Y. Music Program Director, and Site Coordinators to ensure alignment across all P.L.A.Y. Music Teams and to provide holistic support to each student, upholding the El Sistema philosophy of musical excellence, social inclusion, and strong family and community engagement.

Key Accountabilities: Curriculum & Lesson Support

- Review and follow weekly lesson plans provided by the Lead Teaching Artist.
- Support lesson objectives by reinforcing musical concepts introduced by the Lead Teaching Artist, including note reading, rhythm, posture, and ensemble skills.
- Assist with lesson preparation by ensuring students, instruments, and materials are ready for instruction.
- Support consistent implementation of P.L.A.Y. Music curriculum and instructional expectations.

Key Accountabilities: Instruction & Classroom Management

- Assist and support the needs of the classroom as directed by Lead TA's including but not limited to tuning instruments, adjusting posture, helping with note reading, playing in the section, providing coaching support, and behavior/classroom management support.
- Assist and support the needs of the Site Coordinator by helping with administrative duties such as taking attendance, making copies, handing out music, snacks, taking students to the restroom, classroom setup and cleanup, and other tasks as needed.
- Assist with student dismissal procedures as needed.
- Encourage learning in a safe environment that builds students' self-esteem and confidence.
- Communicate and build a rapport with students in class.

Key Accountabilities: Other

- Participate in P.L.A.Y. Music staff meetings, concerts, special events, community engagement events, and professional development workshops as assigned.
- Assist with the management, program planning, rehearsals, and performances of 150+ children within the entirety of the P.L.A.Y. Music program including but not limited to tuning instruments, playing in the section, behavior, procedure, and discipline management.
- Uphold and model the mission, values, and expectations of the WSS and P.L.A.Y. Music Program.
- Perform other duties as assigned by Lead TA's, Senior Lead TA's, the P.L.A.Y. Music Program Director, or the Vice President-Education & Engagement.

Required Experience & Training/Conditions of Employment

- **Required Experience & Training:**
 - Bachelor's degree in music education or music performance preferred.
 - Experience with string (e.g., Suzuki a plus) or percussion pedagogy is preferred.
 - Experience teaching music in a group/ensemble setting.
 - Experience working in an El Sistema–inspired, community-based, or Title I school setting highly preferred.
 - Strong understanding of and commitment to El Sistema's philosophy of social change through music.
 - Interest and ability to be a motivational mentor and role model for students, parents, and peers as an artist, teacher, and citizen.
 - Flexibility and creativity to adapt to curriculum goals and ability to work collaboratively.
 - Strong interpersonal and communication skills.
 - Strong classroom management and behavior management skills.
 - Ability to work under the supervision of the Lead Teaching Artists and the P.L.A.Y. Music Program Director, including the ability to work under frequent observation.
 - Bilingual abilities (English/Spanish) a strong plus.
- **Conditions of Employment:**
 - Ability to work during assigned daytime and/or evening program hours plus additional time for meetings, professional development, and scheduled concerts.
 - Successful completion of WSS background checks and drug screen, and Winston-Salem/Forsyth County School System background checks.
 - Ability to stand for 2–2.5 hours at one time.
 - Ability to participate in organized musical games and activities that require movement such as walking, jumping, and dancing.
 - Ability to lift and carry up to twenty pounds.