



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

Reports To:	P.L.A.Y. Music Senior Lead Teaching Artist		
FLSA Status:	Part-time Non-Exempt		
Supervises:	Assistant Teaching Artists		
Date Prepared:	<u>December 2025</u>	Review Date:	<u>August 2027</u>

Position Summary

The Winston-Salem Symphony (WSS) P.L.A.Y. Music (Piedmont Learning Academy for Youth) Lead Teaching Artist (TA) provides high-quality string or percussion instruction to P.L.A.Y. Music students and leads a classroom of string or percussion students with varying ability levels. Instructional efforts are informed by established curriculum and pedagogy. They lead 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.

Lead TA's are supported by an Assistant TA and a Site Coordinator who assists with administrative matters. They work closely with the P.L.A.Y. Music Program Director, Senior Lead TA's, fellow Lead TA's, Assistant TA's, 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 Planning

- Collaborate with Senior Lead TA's, the P.L.A.Y Music Program Director, and fellow TA's to develop and implement established P.L.A.Y. Music Program curriculum and pedagogy consistent with P.L.A.Y. Music Program culture, as inspired by the ideals of El Sistema, and to ensure that the program remains rigorous, responsive, and high quality.
- Lesson planning:
 - Collaborate with Senior Lead TA's, the P.L.A.Y Music Program Director, and fellow TA's to develop and implement shared lesson plans consistent with P.L.A.Y. Music Program curriculum and pedagogy.
 - Integrate reading/literacy activities into weekly lessons to support students' academic growth.
 - Submit weekly lesson plans to Senior Lead TA's, Assistant TA's, the Site Coordinator, and the P.L.A.Y. Music Program Director.

Key Accountabilities: Instruction & Classroom Management

- Lead and teach strings or percussion classes, including running creative ensemble activities.
- Communicate classroom needs and expectations to assigned Assistant TA's and Site Coordinator.
- Communicate and build a supportive rapport with students, staff, and parents to understand each child holistically.
- Monitor student progress and recommend next steps (repertoire, instrument size changes, ensemble placement) to the P.L.A.Y. Music Program Director.

- Help ensure safe, supportive, and inclusive classroom environments and model positive behavior management strategies.
- Assist Site Coordinator, when needed, with administrative duties such as attendance, making copies, handing out music, snacks, classroom setup and cleanup, and other tasks as needed.

Key Accountabilities: Other

- Communicate with parents/guardians regarding student progress and concerns, as appropriate.
- 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 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 required; post-graduate degree or equivalent professional experience preferred.
- Demonstrated excellent musicianship and artistry as a teacher/performer/leader.
- Strong knowledge and experience with standard music pedagogy (e.g., Suzuki, etc.) with certification preferred.
- Experience teaching music in a group/ensemble setting.
- Flexibility and creativity to adapt to curriculum goals and ability to work collaboratively.
- Experience working in an El Sistema–inspired, community-based, or Title I school setting highly preferred.
- Interest and ability to be a motivational mentor and role model for students, parents, and peers as an artist, teacher, and citizen.
- Ability to be creative with limited resources.
- Strong classroom and behavior management skills.
- Demonstrated commitment to El Sistema's philosophy of musical excellence, social inclusion, and family/community engagement.
- Excellent interpersonal and communication skills with students, families, school staff, and program leadership.
- Ability to work under the supervision of Senior Lead TA's 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 and teach 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.