



Position Description: P.L.A.Y Music Senior Lead Teaching Artist – Beginning Strings

Reports To:	P.L.A.Y. Music Program Director	
FLSA Status:	Part-time Non-Exempt	
Supervises:	Lead & 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) Senior Lead Teaching Artist (TA)-Beginning Strings provides high-quality string instruction to P.L.A.Y. Music students and leads classrooms of beginning string students. 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.

Senior Lead TA’s are supported by either a Lead or Assistant TA in each class, and by a Site Coordinator who assists with administrative matters. They work closely with the P.L.A.Y. Music Program Director, their counterpart Senior Lead Teaching Artist – Intermediate & Advanced Strings, Lead and Assistant TA’s to ensure alignment across all P.L.A.Y. Music Team levels. They also collaborate with fellow Teaching Artists and program staff 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 the P.L.A.Y. Music Program Director and Senior Lead Teaching Artist-Intermediate & Advanced Strings to review, update, and align the beginning strings curriculum annually (or as needed) to ensure the P.L.A.Y. Music Program remains rigorous, responsive, and high quality.
- Lesson planning:
 - Develop or refine weekly lesson plans that align with program outcomes, El Sistema ideals, and performance goals and submit lesson plans to the Lead TAs, the Assistant TAs, the Site Coordinator, and the P.L.A.Y. Music Program Director.
 - Integrate reading/literacy activities into weekly lessons to support students’ academic growth.
 - Ensure that Lead TA plans align with approved P.L.A.Y. Music curriculum.

Key Accountabilities: Instruction & Classroom Management

- Lead and deliver high-quality string instruction for beginning violin classes, modeling best practices in pedagogy, pacing, and classroom culture.
- Supervise, support, coach, and provide feedback to the Lead and Assistant TA’s assigned to the site.
- 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.
- Coordinate with the P.L.A.Y. Music Program Director on performances, concerts, and community engagement events for beginning string ensembles.
- 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.
- Participate in and, when asked, help lead professional development for P.L.A.Y. Music Teaching Artists.
- Manage the performance planning and evaluation processes for assigned Lead and Assistant TA's.
- Uphold and model the mission, values, and expectations of the WSS and P.L.A.Y. Music Program.
- Perform other duties as assigned by the P.L.A.Y. Music Program Director or Vice President-Education & Engagement.

Required Experience & Training/Conditions of Employment

- **Required Experience & Training:**
 - Bachelor's degree in music education or music performance required; master's degree or equivalent professional experience preferred.
 - 5+ years of successful experience teaching beginning strings in group/ensemble settings (elementary school ages preferred).
 - Demonstrated strong musicianship and artistry as a teacher, performer, and ensemble leader.
 - Advanced knowledge of string pedagogy (e.g., Suzuki, Rolland, or comparable methods); certification/training strongly preferred.
 - Experience in curriculum development, pacing, and assessment for beginning string programs.
 - Experience supervising, mentoring, and coaching other TA's preferred.
 - Strong classroom and behavior management skills, with the ability to model best practices for other TA's.
 - Experience working in an El Sistema-inspired, community-based, or Title I school setting highly preferred.
 - Demonstrated commitment to El Sistema's philosophy of musical excellence, social inclusion, and family/community engagement.
 - Ability to be creative with limited resources.
 - Excellent interpersonal and communication skills with students, families, school staff, and program leadership.

- 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 planning, meetings, professional development, and 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, participate in musical movement activities, and set up program space.
- Ability to lift and carry up to twenty pounds.