

Y A K I M A
SYMPHONY
ORCHESTRA

LAWRENCE GOLAN
THE HELEN N. JEWETT MUSIC DIRECTOR

Job Title: Young Artist, 4 positions available

Positions: Soprano, alto, tenor, and bass positions available

Reports To: Chorusmaster

Supervises: None

Position: Seasonal Part-time, Salary, Nonexempt, At-Will

Compensation: \$2,000 per-season

Work Locations: Yakima area rehearsal and concert locations, which may include Wesley United Methodist Church, Yakima Valley College, Capitol Theatre, and 4th Street Theatre

Hours and Required Dates: Highly variable hours as assigned by the Chorusmaster, but typically between 3 and 10 hours per week and include Yakima Symphony Chorus rehearsals every Monday from 7 to 9:30pm, and required participation in Yakima Symphony Orchestra rehearsals and concerts on the following dates:

- December 4–6, 2026
- February 25–27, 2027
- May 19–22, 2027

Period: Monday, September 14, 2026–June 30, 2027

Job Summary

The Young Artist Program, formed in 2023 by Chorusmaster Steven S. Slusher, offers career-oriented singers experiences to strengthen their development as soloists and professional choral singers. Through mentorship and coaching with the Yakima Symphony Chorus' Chorusmaster, the Young Artists serve as assistant vocal soloists, responsible for stepping in for Yakima Symphony Orchestra concerts if professional soloists are unable to do so. In March 2025, Young Artist John Jones was the featured bass artist in *The Defiant Requiem* with the Yakima Symphony Orchestra when the professional soloist fell ill, boosting his local performance career.

The 2026–2027 Young Artists will perform selected vocal solos for the Yakima Symphony Orchestra's performance of Beethoven's *Fidelio* on Saturday, February 27, 2027.

To Apply: Email resume to Chorusmaster Steven S. Slusher at chorusmaster@ysomusic.org to schedule an audition.

Audition Format

Auditions last approximately 20-minutes and include sight-reading, tonal memory, and vocalization. Auditioning singers will be asked to present **three vocal selections** that demonstrate their range, timbre, flexibility, diction, expressiveness, and stage presence from the following—

- A Baroque aria from a cantata, oratorio, or mass in any language (this does not need to be memorized)
- An opera aria in a foreign language (this should be performed from memory)
- An operetta/musical theatre song in English, suitable for informal entertainment (this should be performed from memory)

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- An accompanist will be provided. Please be prepared to **send music electronically ahead of time and bring music for the accompanist** marked with changes in tempo, dynamics, ritards, etc.

Should you be granted an audition, we will require **one letter of recommendation from a voice instructor or choral director** giving a professional evaluation of your musicianship, leadership abilities, dependability, and vocal potential.

Required Education/Skills/Experience

- Minimum of three years of undergraduate study in music
- Must be pursuing a professional vocal/conducting career
- Must be currently engaged in private vocal study
- Thirty-five (35) years old or younger at the time of the audition

Job Duties and Responsibilities

- Serve as assistant vocal soloists, responsible for stepping in and performing vocal solos at Yakima Symphony Orchestra concerts if the professional soloist is unable to do so
- Attend and observe Yakima Symphony Orchestra rehearsals involving professional vocal soloists
- Young Artists may perform at selected Yakima Symphony Chorus events, such as promotional performances and fundraisers
- Provide musical leadership in the Yakima Symphony Chorus through management of sectional rehearsals and occasional chorus warm-ups
- Assist with singer logistics at performance venues at designated times surrounding orchestra working rehearsals, dress rehearsals, and performances
- Other duties as assigned by the Chorusmaster

About the Yakima Symphony Chorus

The all volunteer Yakima Symphony Chorus was formed in the spring of 1971 by the Yakima Symphony Orchestra's founding music director, Brooke Creswell, as the official choral ensemble of the Symphony. Dr. Scott Peterson led the chorus for 38 years from 1977 to 2015, during which time the chorus had the opportunity to tour Europe and Asia and perform at Carnegie Hall. Justin Raffa served as chorusmaster from 2015 to 2023, fostering regional collaborations and curating choral feature programs with local resonance, such as 2019's Annelise and Heart Mountain performances. Under the direction of Chorusmaster Steven S. Slusher, the Yakima Symphony Chorus has maintained 100+ members, and includes the applauded Young Artist Program for those aspiring to a career in vocal performance.