

Opera Philharmonic Ballet

Job Description: Dayton Performing Arts Preparatory School Teaching Artist, String Chamber Ensemble

Program Description

The *Dayton Performing Arts Preparatory School (PREP)* was established in 2026 with generous support from local donors to bring our core belief to life: The Arts are for Everyone. By providing high-quality, accessible performing arts training, we make exceptional music and dance education available to every aspiring young artist in our community. Serving as the educational heart of the DPAA, Prep meets students exactly where they are—from absolute beginners to pre-professional artists—while creating a vital pipeline into our advanced ensembles, including the Dayton Philharmonic Youth Orchestra program. We offer a variety of beginning string group classes, chamber ensembles for high school students, and future plans to include group vocal instruction. Classes meet weekly on Sundays from October through April, bridging foundational learning with advanced training to offer students of all backgrounds unparalleled access to professional artists and educators. Beyond technical proficiency, our pedagogy focuses on nurturing well-rounded critical thinkers, building character through music, and fostering a collaborative ensemble spirit where students learn to thrive and play well with others.

This position is a part-time, seasonal position with an immediate opening on September 20, 2026, through April 25, 2027, with contract renewal likely for the following season. On-site hours will be from approximately 4:30–7:30 p.m. on Sundays, with occasional nights and weekends for special concert events and performances.

Job Description: Teaching Artist, String Chamber Ensemble

Specific duties and responsibilities shall include, but not be limited to, the following:

- Serve as the String Chamber Ensemble Faculty Instructor (coaching string quartets, trios, quintets, and mixed string ensembles) for high school and advanced students during the 2026–2027 season
- Select, arrange, and adapt diverse, high-quality string chamber literature (traditional classical canons and underrepresented composers) suited to varying instrumentation and ensemble skill levels in collaboration with the Curriculum Coordinator
- Coach advanced string chamber techniques, including unified bow distribution, synchronized vibrato/color, unconducted cueing, intonation within harmonic overtones, voice leading, and balance
- Guide students and authorized adults regarding instrument setup, bow maintenance/rehairing, string selection, chin/shoulder rest adjustments, and acoustic projection
- Work with *Learning and Community Engagement Team (LCE) Preparatory School* staff to create monthly, weekly, and daily goals for students, communicate those goals to students and authorized adults, and plan engaging activities to achieve those goals
- Participate in all *LCE Preparatory School* staff meetings and planned professional development as scheduled by the Engagement Programs Manager
- Be an active participant in *LCE Preparatory School* performances (2-3 annually) and serve as an ambassador and advocate in the community
- Actively assist with recruitment and community engagement efforts, including participating in fall Open House events and placement auditions to meet prospective students and authorized adults, assess playing levels, and support registration
- Follow, implement, collaborate, and enrich the curriculum set by the *LCE Preparatory School* Curriculum Coordinator
- Uphold and implement a positive behavior plan consistent with the LCE Handbook
- Cultivate a holistic learning environment that fosters critical thinking, character building, ensemble collaboration, and positive peer interaction to "play well with others"
- Work with the Registrar to maintain prompt and accurate attendance records each week and communicate student absences or concerns with administrative staff

DAYTON PERFORMING ARTS ALLIANCE

Opera Philharmonic Ballet

- Provide practice resources, listening links, or weekly home guidance to authorized adults to support at-home learning and student retention
- Assist with class transition management, classroom setup, and tear-down to maintain a safe, organized instructional space
- Collaborate with other chamber and string faculty to coordinate combined recital programming, stage logistics, and performance run-of-show
- Participate in program evaluation

Qualified individuals will possess:

- Demonstrated training and background in String Pedagogy, Chamber Music Coaching, or Violin / Viola / Cello / Double Bass Performance
- Extensive knowledge of standard and diverse string quartet and chamber repertoire
- Willingness to collaborate and work as a team
- Flexibility and responsiveness to the needs of students and authorized adults
- Proficiency in model playing/demonstration on an orchestral string instrument
- Ability to develop and teach engaging rehearsals/coaching sessions that:
 - Build advanced string chamber ensemble musicianship, autonomy, listening sensitivity, and stylistic interpretation across historical eras
 - Establish routines for group warm-ups, unconducted rehearsal strategies, intonation checks, and score study and analysis
 - Maintain high expectations, excellent classroom management, and a supportive, positive learning environment
 - Provide appropriate challenges and adaptations for individual students, diverse learning styles, and varied developmental abilities
 - Encourage social-emotional growth, character development, and mutual respect among ensemble peers

Supporting experience may include:

- Teaching private String instruction, collegiate/high school masterclasses, or youth orchestra sectionals
- Experience conducting or coaching unconducted small ensembles and preparing students for public ensemble performance
- Experience in community arts outreach, adjudication, or student audition preparation
- Relevant degree or coursework in String Performance, Chamber Music, or Music Education
- Demonstrated ability to collaborate effectively with students, staff, and community members of diverse backgrounds

Note: *The job description is not designed to cover or contain a comprehensive listing of activities, duties, or responsibilities that are required of the employee.*

Position Reports to: Vice President for Learning and Community Engagement and under the general supervision of the Engagement Programs Manager in coordination with the administrative and artistic functions of the DPAA.

Classification status: Part-Time

Last updated: 7/09/26

Compensation: \$40 / class

Application Process: To apply, please send an email cover letter and resume to: education@daytonperformingarts.org.

Applications will be accepted on a rolling basis until the position is filled. A 5-minute video teaching sample may be requested of the applicant. The Dayton Performing Arts Alliance is an equal-opportunity employer.