



Knoxville Symphony Orchestra Classroom Quartet/Quintet Programs



What: The mission of the Knoxville Symphony Orchestra's Classroom Quartet/Quintet program is to provide the opportunity for students to interact with a symphony string quartet or woodwind quintet in their classroom. The KSO Classroom String Quartet or Woodwind Quintet provides a live musical performance for students in their classrooms in a forty-minute program designed for third, fourth and fifth grade students. A KSO Education & Community Partnerships staff person prepares the performance space and leads and facilitates interaction with audience members, following a script based on an annual theme. During the scripted program, musicians respond to the narrator, introduce musical works and answer questions posed by students and teachers. The string quartet is additionally responsible for KSO Story Time programs offered in kindergarten and pre-kindergarten classrooms in the Knox County Schools. The KSO Classroom Quartet and Quintet also take an active role in preparations for Side-by-Side opportunities with local high school bands and orchestras. Ensembles visit during regularly scheduled class periods to lead section rehearsals, sit in with their respective section, and perform for and prepare students prior to Knoxville Symphony Chamber Orchestra rehearsals with these groups.

Where: The program takes place primarily in Knox County schools (in pre-k and kindergarten classrooms for Story Time and high school band or orchestra rehearsal spaces for Side-by-Side), or occasionally in schools in the surrounding counties or local private schools. (School performances are closed to the public.) To see a video clip from a KSO Classroom Quartet, go to the KSO website: <https://knoxvillesymphony.com/education-community/kso-in-schools/classroom-quartet-quintet/>

How Many: In a typical season, KSO ensembles present Classroom programs at five to ten Knox County elementary schools, and ten programs in surrounding counties including Blount, McMinn and Sevier counties. Story Times for pre-k and kindergarten classes take place in twenty Knox County schools. In total, the KSO serves over 2,000 students through the Classroom Quartet/Quintet program, 1,500 through school Story Times and 250 through the Side-by-Side program. Scheduling begins in August and continues throughout the school year for these performances.

Process: A collaboration between KSO staff and ensemble musicians results in the development of the script each season. In September, each ensemble receives rehearsal credits for this purpose, and it is expected that the musicians arrive with suggested musical excerpts and thematic ideas for the program. KSO staff will assist with scanning and/or making copies of the music for each member of the quartet, and will edit the script after each run-through to incorporate the ensembles's creative input. The final rehearsal meeting culminates with the fully developed script that will be performed beginning in October.

Responsibilities of the KSO Staff include:

- Scheduling Classroom Quartet/Quintet, Story Time and Side-by-Side programs in public or private schools
- Assisting with selection of repertoire and theme
- Preparing a draft script
- Assigning rehearsal credits and coordinating a schedule of rehearsals with the ensembles to develop the script in September, including making copies of music for read-throughs and/or inclusion in the final script
- Setting up performance spaces at each venue and providing KSO student instruments for Story Times
- Facilitating the program and addressing any issues that may arise
- In the case of performances more than sixty miles from the KSO offices, driving a van to transport the ensemble and their instruments
- Providing and being receptive to feedback and evaluative comments to/from the ensembles, including (but not limited to) a meeting for that purpose at the end of each season

Responsibilities of the Core Musicians include:

- Responding promptly to staff communications to schedule September rehearsals
- Reading through the script and coming to the first rehearsal with repertoire and thematic suggestions (if a musician has copies of music to bring to the rehearsal that is always helpful; if staff needs to make copies available, as much advance notice as possible is also helpful)
- Engaging in the creative process to develop the script and rehearse the program in September
- Engaging in the creative process to rehearse and present the Story Time program beginning in January (a fully developed script and music will be supplied)
- Arriving at rehearsals and performance venues in a timely manner (on their own when venues are less than sixty miles from the KSO offices) and attired according to the applicable KSO dress code
- Bringing to each performance their instrument, music stand, and binder containing script and music
- Participating in the presentation by responding to the facilitator, presenting a pre-determined portion of the program and responding to teacher and student questions
- For Story Time programs, greeting students (and teachers) after each program and assisting the children in playing the student instruments provided by the KSO
- For Side-by-Side rehearsals, working one-on-one with students and leading section rehearsals
- Providing and being receptive to feedback and evaluative comments to/from KSO staff

