



CORE SECTION VIOLA AUDITION - 2026

Audition Information:

There is one (1) Core Section Viola position available. This is a tenure track position.

Auditions will be held on Monday, August 31, 2026. Candidates will be asked to return a confirmation form with a \$50 refundable audition deposit to arrive by Wednesday, August 19, to secure an audition time. Audition times will be assigned Thursday, August 20.

Interested candidates should email or mail resume to:

Mark Tucker
KSO Personnel Manager
mtucker@knoxvillesymphony.com
PO Box 360
Knoxville, TN 37901-0360

The KSO cannot offer employment if a candidate does not have proper immigration clearances.

Position Details:

Core Section Viola is a full-time position. Per the Knoxville Symphony Orchestra Master Agreement (2023-26), salary for the 2025-26 season was \$40,234.48 (\$1,149.56 weekly). The Master Agreement for the 2026-27 season is under negotiation. Benefits include group health insurance, short-term disability, life and AD&D insurance, and a 3.5% pension contribution. A dental plan is available but not funded by the Symphony.

The KSO performs a 35-week season which will begin August 31, 2026, and end on May 23, 2027

In addition to rehearsing and performing with the Knoxville Symphony Orchestra and Knoxville Symphony Chamber Orchestra, Core Section Viola will serve in a string ensemble scheduled throughout the season for Education and Community Partnership (E&CP) programming including but not limited to: Musical Story Time programs in local libraries and schools, in-school presentations, Music & Wellness programs in local health care facilities, and promotional performances for the KSO and the Knoxville Symphony League. E&CP programming accounts for approximately 50% of annual services for the Core Section Viola position. For more details about these activities, please see the attached descriptions. E&CP ensemble assignments are made at the discretion of the Music Director.

Core Section Violists may also be featured as chamber musicians on the KSO Q Series recitals and the Concertmaster & Friends recital series.

KSO Kids

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.

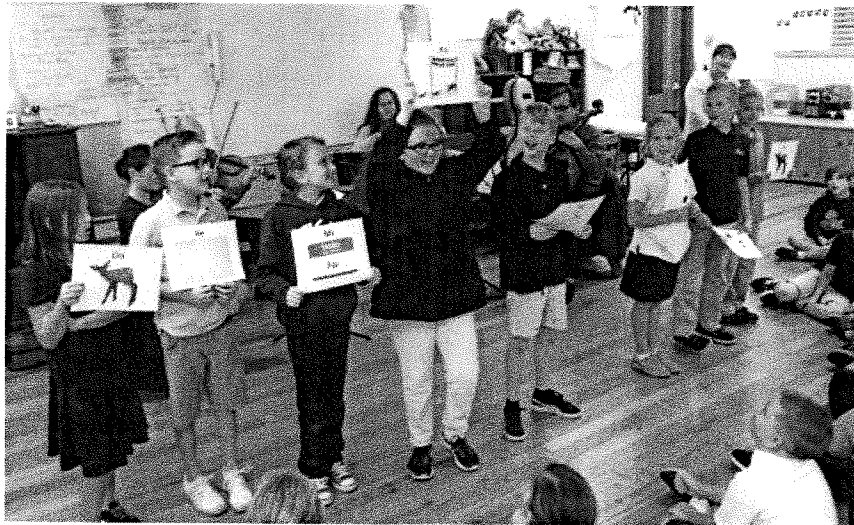
Process: A collaboration between KSO staff and ensemble musicians results in the development of the script each season. In September, each ensemble receives rehearsal credits for this purpose, and it is expected that the musicians arrive with suggested musical excerpts and thematic ideas for the program. 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



KSO Kids

Knoxville Symphony Orchestra Musical Story Time Programs



What: The mission of the KSO Story Time program is to provide young children with their first experience with live classical music. Children who attend Story Times at local public libraries (which partner with the KSO to present the program) are engaged by the combination of children's literature and music. The KSO Story Time quartet provides live music (excerpts of classical works, arrangements of well-known children's songs, sound effects), and some narration to enhance the reading of three children's books in a half hour program designed for pre-school aged children. A KSO Education & Community Partnerships staff person prepares the performance space, reads the books and facilitates interaction with audience members, following a script based on an annual theme. At the conclusion of the scripted program, musicians personally greet the children and assist them in playing on student instruments (provided by the KSO). This added experience usually takes fifteen additional minutes. The KSO has graduated multiple students from the Knoxville Symphony Youth Orchestra program who had their first experience with string instruments live through this program. This program lays the ground work for participation in Very Young People's Concerts, the Knoxville Symphony Youth Orchestra and the Penny for the Arts ticket program. It is also the most popular program that educators request to visit their classrooms.

Where: The program takes place in either public libraries (free and open to the public), or in pre-k and kindergarten classrooms in Knox County Schools, or occasionally in schools in surrounding counties. (School performances are closed to the public.) To see a video clip from a KSO Story Time performance, go to the KSO website:
<https://knoxvillesymphony.com/education-community/story-time-programs/story-time-in-public-libraries/>

How Many: In a typical season, KSO quartets present Story Times at thirteen Knox County Public Library branches in the fall (October-December), and in ten public libraries outside Knox County in the spring (January-May). They also share responsibility for performances in up to twenty school classrooms in the spring. This program serves over 1,500 through public story times and an additional 1,500 through school story times.

Process: A collaboration between KSO staff and two core string quartets results in the development of the script each season. In September, quartets receive rehearsal credits for this purpose, and it is expected that the musicians arrive with suggested musical excerpts and sound effects to fit the program (a draft of the program will be sent by email prior to the first meeting). 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 quartet's creative input. The final rehearsal meeting culminates with the fully developed script that will be performed beginning in October.

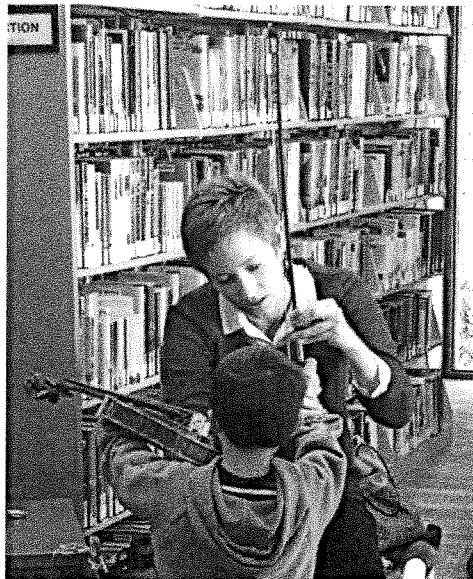
Responsibilities of the KSO Staff include:

- Scheduling Story Time programs in public libraries and schools
- Selecting books based on the theme
- Preparing a draft script that is sent to core string quartets in August (some suggestions for musical excerpts and sound effects will be included)

- Assigning rehearsal credits and coordinating a schedule of rehearsals with the quartets 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
- 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 a quartet and their instruments
- Providing and being receptive to feedback and evaluative comments to/from the quartets, 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 suggestions for musical excerpt and/or sound effects that might be incorporated (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
- 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
- Greeting children (and the accompanying adults) after each program and assisting the children in playing the student instruments provided by the KSO
- Providing and being receptive to feedback and evaluative comments to/from KSO staff





Knoxville Symphony Orchestra Music & Wellness Program



What: The mission of the Knoxville Symphony Orchestra (KSO) Music & Wellness (M&W) program is to provide live musical performances to benefit patients, visitors and staff in healthcare settings. The KSO Music & Wellness ensemble performs as a quartet or musicians work as soloists depending upon the area of the hospital in which they are playing. The KSO's Music Therapist or a KSO Education & Community Partnerships staff person prepares the performance space for quartet performances, and helps to facilitate interactions with staff and patients. Longtime members of this quartet have completed professional development training with the KSO Music Therapist and through the Music for Healing and Transition program to become Certified Music Practitioners. Newer members in the program train one-on-one with the KSO's Music Therapist. This is an award-winning program, one of the longest running programs of its kind in the orchestra industry and unique in the Southeast.

Where: The program takes place primarily in two Knox County health care systems serving The University of Tennessee Medical Center, Fort Sanders Regional Hospital, Parkwest Hospital and occasionally smaller organizations like The Cancer Support Community, Peninsula Health or assisted living facilities. To see a video clip from a KSO Music & Wellness program, go to: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8GX1CT3NX40>

How Many: In a typical season, the KSO Music & Wellness ensemble performs twenty quartet services and soloists work an additional eighteen services, for approximately 40 services per season. In total this program serves 4,000 in the Knoxville community.



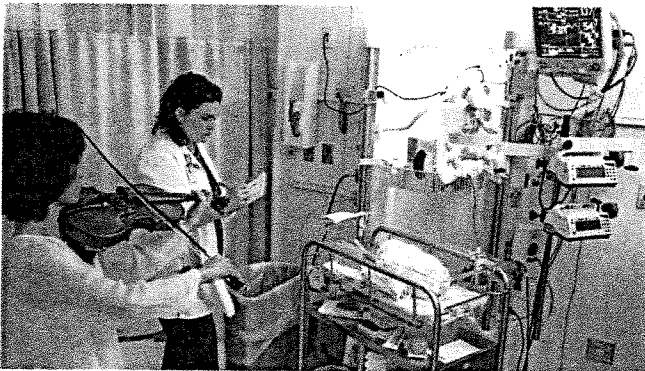
Process: In September, the ensemble receives rehearsal credits to complete any needed professional development with the KSO Music Therapist, and it is expected that the musicians arrive with any questions/areas of concern regarding healthcare populations served in the program. The KSO provides each musician in the program with a Music & Wellness Handbook, an iPad Air 2, mic stand, stylus and AirTurn pedal, and will assist in teaching the forScore software that the quartet uses as needed. KSO Staff will assist with scanning music for each member of the ensemble.

Responsibilities of the KSO Staff include:

- Scheduling Music & Wellness visits
- Assisting with selection of repertoire
- Assigning rehearsal credits and coordinating a schedule of professional development
- Setting up quartet performance spaces at each venue
- 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 ensemble, 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 professional development
- Coming to the first professional development with repertoire suggestions, questions or concerns (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)
- Familiarizing oneself with the Music & Wellness Handbook including section 3 on Healthcare Universal Precautions, participating in the presentation by responding directly to patients, and providing and being receptive to feedback and evaluative comments to/from KSO staff
- Engaging in the creative process to create set-lists for individual patient populations
- Memorizing repertoire as necessary for solo performances
- Obtaining annual immunizations and submitting staff/volunteer paperwork as required by Healthcare systems
- 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, iPad, iPad stand and AirTurn Pedal



KNOXVILLE SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

AUDITION LIST

CORE SECTION VIOLA

SOLOS:

First movement of BARTÓK, HINDEMITH or WALTON concerto

MOZART, Duo for Violin & Viola in G major, op. 28, K. 423: Viola part, first mov't, m. 1-48

ORCHESTRAL EXCERPTS:

BEETHOVEN	Symphony No. 5	II. m. 1-10, 49-60, 98-106
BRAHMS	Haydn Variations	Var. V & VII (no repeats on either)
COPLAND	<i>Appalachian Spring</i> : Suite (full orchestration version)	[6] to 1m after [10]
MOZART	Symphony No. 35	I. 9 after [A] to [B] (m. 41-66) IV. 10 after [D] to [E] (m. 134-181)
MONTGOMERY	<i>Starburst</i>	m. 19-28
SHOSTAKOVICH	Symphony No. 5	I. [15] to [17] I. 2m after [22] to [24]
STRAUSS	<i>Don Juan</i>	Beginning thru 5m before [D]
TCHAIKOVSKY	Symphony No. 6	I. <i>Allegro non troppo</i> to [C] (m. 19-62)

POSSIBLE SIGHT READING