

CENTRAL ILLINOIS
YOUTH SYMPHONY 
IS EVOLVING TO
YOUTH MUSIC ILLINOIS

Jeff McSweeney
Executive Director

c 309.678.6541 ~ jeffmcsweeney@youthmusicillinois.org

Jazz Program Open Conductor Position

General Information:

Youth Music Illinois is a nonprofit organization located in Peoria, Illinois. Our mission is to mentor area youth in developing a repertoire of skills for both music and life, through the power of live performance. Each season we serve approximately 175 students from Peoria and the surrounding area. Students who aspire to join Youth Music Illinois audition for a variety of orchestras and small ensembles. We strive to find a place within our organization for all enthusiastic young musicians.

As part of Youth Music Illinois' effort to expand instrumental opportunities to student musicians of all interests, a new Jazz program will be launched in late 2017. This is an opportunity to be in on the ground floor of an exceptional program, leading some of the region's most accomplished young jazz players.

The position begins with rehearsals in late Autumn 2017, and culminates in a concert in late Spring 2018.

Overview of Positions:

Youth Music Illinois is searching for a Leader of the Jazz Band—a Jazz ensemble modeled on the big band concept and designed to challenge the most advanced student jazz musicians in our area.

The Jazz Band Leader will report to the Music Director and work with the Executive Director, and is responsible for the repertoire, programming and recruitment of the program. S/He will work collaboratively with other YMI conductors and staff in planning programming, evaluation, recruitment, and further development of our organization. S/He will be responsible for ensuring proper student placement within the ensemble, and seeing that Youth Music Illinois Curricular Goals are being met through repertoire selection, rehearsal, and performance. (Youth Music Illinois Curricular Goals include the following general categories: Musical Language, Music Theory, Music Production, and Musical History & Styles).

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Duties:

The successful candidates will lead Jazz Band in rehearsals and concerts throughout the season (Schedule to be agreed when it is finalized, prior to auditions). Rehearsals will be held on Sunday afternoons. The initial season runs from November through April, with auditions held at the end of October 2017. The successful candidate will lead the Jazz Band audition process.

S/he will have experience working with students of all levels, particularly middle school through high school and have a successful record of teaching experience. S/he will have excellent communication and interpersonal skills, and be able to speak enthusiastically about music education and Youth Music Illinois. To be able to help build the band through outreach to fellow directors and potential students, applicants need to live within 75 miles of Peoria. Applicants must demonstrate a strong ability to create a positive learning environment that also delivers the highest quality of musical excellence in performance. S/he must also be willing to participate in shaping future goals and activities, in collaboration with the Music Director, Executive Director, Board, and other key personnel.

Education:

Bachelor's degree required; post-graduate studies in Music and/or Music Education preferred. Professional teaching and performance experience may be considered, in lieu of a post-graduate degree.

Compensation:

Contracted, on a per-service basis. Amount per service based on experience and expertise.

Application Deadline:

Last date to apply: Friday, July 21 at 5:00 pm

Application Procedure:

Please email your cover letter and resume or curriculum vitae to Jeff McSweeney, Executive Director at jeffmcsweeney@youthmusicillinois.org. All written submissions must be in .pdf format.

Applicants will be contacted with a confirmation email upon receipt of application materials. Applicants may be invited to Peoria, IL for further consideration. Applicants will be responsible for travel costs.

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JAZZ BAND LEADER

Job Description

The Jazz Band Leader reports to the Youth Music Illinois Music Director.

The Jazz Band Leader conducts the Youth Music Illinois top Jazz Band in rehearsal and performance. Additional duties include:

- Communicate and coordinate with Youth Music Illinois Music Director and Executive Director during the course of the season, with active participation in planning the activities of the Jazz Band to benefit the education of the students and build the profile of this new ensemble
- Communicate with Jazz Band students and their families as necessary
- Communicate with fellow music educators and professional musicians as needed
- Take responsibility for managing instruments and equipment for the Jazz Band; advising and/or assisting Youth Music Illinois Directors, staff, Board, and volunteers in acquisition of additional equipment by purchase, loan, or donation
- Take responsibility for oversight of the Jazz Band library, to be established and built through purchase and donations
- Recruit students with the support of the Music Director and Executive Director

S/he will work with the Music Director and Executive Director in planning the inaugural season of the Jazz Band. This work will include:

- Setting the rehearsal and performance calendar
- Planning and executing the audition process for band membership
- Planning and participating in the communications and recruitment process, reaching out to school music directors, area jazz musicians, and individual students when appropriate

Rehearsals of the Youth Music Illinois Jazz Band will take place at Youth Music Illinois's home location, the Life Together Center, at 3625 N Sheridan Rd, Peoria, IL 61604, on Sunday afternoons during the season. The schedule is not final and is not yet published, but currently planned are auditions on Sunday, October 29, and rehearsals to start on Sunday, November 5th, 2017. The Band's 2017-2018 season will end on or about the final weekend in April, 2018. There will be a minimum of two public performances by the Jazz Band in 2017-2018, in addition to performance(s) at Youth Music Illinois-sponsored functions.

Compensation of the Youth Music Illinois Jazz Band Leader will be per service, on an Independent Contractor basis. Rate per service will be scaled to a Conductor position (exceeding regional musician wage scales), and commensurate with the appointed Director's training and experience.