



WEST MICHIGAN SYMPHONY

SCOTT SPECK | MUSIC DIRECTOR

West Michigan Symphony Tune Up Program- Teaching Artist Position 2023

Organization Overview:

The West Michigan Symphony (WMS) is an anchor arts organization headquartered in Muskegon, Michigan providing community connection to music since 1939. Our vision is to be a catalyst for a music-infused West Michigan: leading, facilitating, connecting and collaborating with the community to stimulate cultural vibrancy, inclusivity and pride of place.

WMS performs an eight-concert annual season in the 1,700-seat Frauenthal Center and also presents a 14-concert jazz and chamber series nearby at The Block, a 125-seat “live listening room” featuring jazz, crossover-folk, and classical chamber concerts.

WMS’s third pillar is its music education programs that enrich the lives of children and adults through exploration, participation and performance. The organization extends ever more deeply into the community—with a particular goal of reaching the underserved— through a variety of activities. WMS programs impact toddlers through young adults and are provided free or at very low cost to foster access.

Tune Up Program Overview:

WMS’s Tune Up after-school string program fills a gap in the local education system. Tune Up is based on *El Sistema*, a visionary global orchestra movement that provides instrumental music education to underserved youth, developing the life skills and habits that lead to successful lives. Like other programs based on this model, Tune Up offers two or more hours of instruction per week. Students receive free use of a musical instrument, learn to play that instrument, participate in ensemble and sectional lessons, build friendships, and receive music and academic support from teaching artists and qualified staff.

The program takes place in partnership with Muskegon Public Schools as part of the 21st CCLC IMPACT program, which provides after-school academic support and enrichment opportunities. Tune Up leverages Impact’s already established safe, supportive environment—including tutoring, snacks and fellowship—while adding a needed musical element.

String Teaching Artist- Part Time

Job Description

WMS Tune Up program is a formal partnership between the WMS and Muskegon Public School Districts 21st CCLC after-school IMPACT program. Student instruction will be held after the school day and during the Impact program hours in the Muskegon elementary and middle school.

The String Teaching Artist provides violin, viola (cello optional for middle school) for beginning students in elementary grades 3, 4, 5 at Bunker Elementary School and also students in the middle school, who are in both MPS orchestra program a part of the after-school Impact program.

This position could be filled by one Teaching Artist, or a couple of Teaching Artists, depending on their availability and experience with each age group.

Pay depends on experience and availability to teach. The position is approximately 3-6 hours per week, Tuesday and Thursdays OR Monday and Wednesdays, and runs September through May. Concerts, meetings, preparation time and other Tune Up related work, would also be included in paid hours. This position is a 1099 contractual position.

Teaching Artist has the opportunity to work up to:

Two days per week at Bunker Elementary and one or two days a week at the Muskegon Middle School Teaching Artist reports directly to the Tune Up Lead Teaching Artist/Program Manager

Tune Up String Instructor Responsibilities:

As a Teaching Artist, the candidate must be able to demonstrate proficient performance techniques, as well as communication skills. Knowledge of orchestral instrumental performance and pedagogical practices and their implementation are a must. The primary responsibility of the instructor is to teach group lessons and oversee all rehearsals. Collaborating with Tune Up Program Manager, the Teaching Artist will be directly involved in developing, implementing, and carrying out the Tune Up curriculum and defined teaching objectives.

- Teach mixed group lessons for violin, viola, and cello (middle school only) at beginning levels
- Deliver high-quality instruction and basic musicianship
- Develop effective classroom management and lesson plans
- Assist with recruitment, registrations, and sign-ups
- Work with WMS Tune Up Program Manager to manage instrument distribution and retrieval according to set procedures; provide simple repairs to Tune Up instruments, or return damaged instruments to office for repairs.
- Maintain current attendance lists, and provide weekly updates to Program Manager.
- Work collaboratively with other instructors and Impact staff to facilitate opportunities for combined events (outreach concerts, season finale concert)
- Work cooperatively with school site staff to develop positive relationships
- Prepare students to perform in at least 2 concerts each program year.
- Communicate any changes in schedule to the WMS Program Manager immediately.

- Meet with Program Manager bi-weekly.
- Provide fun learning incentives, parties, rewards programs for students as developed within the Tune Up program.

Position Qualifications/Requirements:

- Bachelor's degree or equivalent experience in music (orchestral strings), music education, or related field.
- Passion for impacting students' lives through music, especially underserved or at-risk youth.
- Prior experience teaching school age children.
- Mastery of your primary instrument (violin, viola, cello).
- Ability to work well on a team.
- Effective and equity-driven classroom management techniques.
- Strong attention to detail.
- Ability to work well in a racially and culturally diverse community.
- Be flexible and adaptable. Tune Up is a new program within these schools.

Preferred

- Ability to speak and write fluently in Spanish. (not required)
- Familiarity with early strings pedagogy.

Dated: May 17, 2023

Email Resume & Cover Letter
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or US Mail to
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