



WEST MICHIGAN SYMPHONY
SCOTT SPECK | MUSIC DIRECTOR

West Michigan Symphony Tune Up Program- Teaching Artist Position 2024-2025

Tune Up Program Overview:

WMS's Tune Up after-school string program fills a gap in the local education system. Tune Up launched its inaugural year the fall of 2022. It 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.

Description

The String Teaching Artist Position primarily provides violin, viola (cello for middle school) for beginning students in the middle school Tune Up program two days a week, as well as provide teaching support to Other Teaching Artists at the Tune Up elementary schools as needed.

Compensation is based on both experience and scope of availability. The position is approximately 6 hours per week, (includes teaching time, planning time and other events) Schedule is determined by the Impact schedule and Teaching Artist availability- runs September through May. Concerts, Student Showcases, staff and Impact meetings, summer programs, preparation time and other Tune Up related work, would also be part of paid wages. Professional development classes, seminars or web-based sessions if offered, will be expected, and paid for by the WMS.

Teaching Artist has the opportunity to work:

Assigned schools, a minimum of, at least two days per week during the after school program.

Additional hours as needed in preparation for concerts or other event.

Report directly to the *Tune Up Lead Teaching Artist/Program Manager* (program is overseen by the VP of Community Learning and Engagement).

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. Reporting to Tune Up Program Manager, the Teaching Artist will be expected to carry out the Tune Up curriculum and defined teaching objectives.

- Teach mixed group lessons for violin, viola, and cello (if instrument is available)
- Deliver high-quality instruction and basic musicianship
- Implement the lesson plans and reach program bench marks set by the Tune Up program
- Utilize proven resources and classroom management tools to teach students
- Establish classroom routines, opening and closing rituals, opportunities for student choice and collaboration, classroom projects that celebrate diversity and explore identity and community.
- Assist with recruitment, registrations, and sign-ups of returning and new students
- Work with 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 participate in weekly updates to Program Manager.
- Work collaboratively with other instructors and MPS 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 1 concert and 2 student showcases each program year.
- Communicate any changes in schedule to the WMS Program Manager immediately.
- Attend Monthly Tune Up meetings for all staff.
- Provide fun learning incentives, parties, rewards programs for students as developed within the program.
- Participate in Impact Summer Program if needed (based on Tune Up enrollment). Approx. 2-4 hours per week for 4 weeks.

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.
- Desire to work collaboratively with multiple Impact and Tune Up teaching staff
- 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 as the program grows and changes to the needs of students.
- Welcomes feedback as a means to personal and professional growth,
- Must be able to lift and move up to 50 lbs, and will be expected to assist with moving equipment pertinent to general operations.

To apply, send cover letter and resume to Karen Vander Zanden, Vice President of Community Learning & Engagement, kvanderzanden@westmichigansymphony.org