



# AD ASTRA

Kansas City's Youth Chamber Orchestra

**APOLLO ORCHESTRA** – Russ Pieken, Conductor

**GEMINI ORCHESTRA** – Sheri Cain, Conductor

Season 1  
2024-2025

Welcome to Kansas City's newest youth orchestra program – AD ASTRA!  
We cannot wait to start making music with everyone starting this September.  
All of us at AD ASTRA is so honored and humbled that you will be a part of our very first season. Together we will make amazing and beautiful music.

AD ASTRA was first intended to be a group of just apr. 20 students. *Or at least that's all we thought would audition.* Thank YOU for helping us quadruple that number and thus allowing us to add a 2<sup>nd</sup> orchestra and to afford as many students this opportunity as possible. Our audition adjudicators enjoyed listening to everyone's performances. Placement in one of the two orchestras is based on playing ability and grade/level. We want everyone to be challenged. However, as true music educators, our first goal is to challenge everyone at a level that is appropriate for their age, level and playing ability.

**APOLLO ORCHESTRA** will be conducted by Russ Pieken.

**GEMINI ORCHESTRA** will be conducted by Sheri Cain.

Here is everything you need to know about our first season, requirements, tuition, rehearsals, locations, etc.

## Now that I have been selected for AD ASTRA what do I need to do?

1. Register to hold your space in the program. Click the link below for the registration site. Each student is required to pay a \$50 non-refundable registration fee. This is due by June 1, 2024. This is part of the overall tuition of \$500.

\$50 registration fee is required of all students regardless if you are applying for a scholarship. If you would like to make different arrangements please just let us know. We will work with families!

2. Tuition for the entire season is \$500 (this includes the non-refundable registration fee.) Families can opt to pay the entire amount up front or use one of our payment plan options. (Payments made are completely non-refundable.)

**Option A**      **Pay entire tuition at time of registration**

**Option B**      **Pay \$50 registration fee by June 1<sup>st</sup>**

**Pay \$225 tuition fee by July 1<sup>st</sup>**

**Pay \$225 by August 1<sup>st</sup>**

**Option C**      **Pay \$50 registration fee and submit scholarship application by June 1<sup>st</sup>**

**Scholarship applications will be accepted until June 1<sup>st</sup>**

**Scholarship awards will be emailed by June 10<sup>th</sup>**

**LINKS TO REGISTER/PAY AND SCHOLARSHIPS ARE LOCATED AT THE END OF THIS DOCUMENT.**

3. Tuition covers everything for the season except for AD ASTRA swag (stay tuned) and nominal concert ticket fees.
4. Both APOLLO and GEMINI Orchestras rehearse on Tuesday nights from 7-9 pm at the Sylvester Powell Community Center in Mission, KS at 6200 Martway Street. The staff at the center is so excited to have us at their facility this season! *For parents.....the location is great! Great coffee shops, restaurants, etc. all along Johnson Drive. Target and Hy Vee are also just a few blocks away. Parents are also always allowed to sit in during rehearsals.*
5. All registered students will receive first semester music during the summer via email. Everyone will receive a folder of their own hard copies of the music at the first rehearsal.
6. At this time our staff is still mulling seating audition options at this time. More information about seating and other ensemble items will be communicated once they are all set.

7. Parent Volunteers – we have already received a bunch of emails from parents asking to help out at rehearsals and concerts. THANK YOU! We are still putting the final touches together in regards to weekly rehearsal and concert needs. Stay tuned! If you are a parent that wants to volunteer and be involved.....no worries.....you are on!
8. What are the expectations and requirements of all musicians in AD ASTRA?
  - a. Be respectful and kind
  - b. Have fun
  - c. Be willing to work and think outside the norm
  - d. Take musical risks
  - e. If your school offers an orchestra/strings program, you must be enrolled in such. If you are homeschooled or your school does not offer such program, you are exempt.
  - f. Attend all rehearsals. We do know that you are all busy. Each semester AD ASTRA members are allowed to miss 2 rehearsals. We will work with parents/students regarding needing more absences. However, school orchestra concerts and activities completely take precedence.
  - g. Practice
  - h. Practice
  - i. Have your music and a PENCIL at each and every rehearsal
  - j. Try your best
9. Before the season starts, we will email everyone with required concert attire.
10. All students must bring their own music stands to all rehearsals and concerts. Please make sure your name is on all of the parts.
11. Current Members/Families link on our website.....  
Please go to [www.adastrakc.org](http://www.adastrakc.org)  
Top right corner click "More" and then "Current Members"  
  
Here you will find the member handbook, calendar/schedule and links to register, pay tuition and apply for scholarships.

Please do not hesitate to let us know if you have any questions.

