



DES MOINES SYMPHONY  
**ACADEMY**

**BEGINNING STRINGS PROGRAM INSTRUCTOR  
JOB DESCRIPTION**

**Position Title:** Beginning Strings Program Instructor

**Reports to:** Beginning Strings Program Manager

**Supervises:** n/a

**Position Summary**

The Des Moines Symphony Academy is seeking a string education specialist to join our Beginning Strings Program Teaching Faculty.

**Position Duties and Responsibilities**

- Carry out curriculum designed by the Symphony Academy and lead weekly classes of 3-4 young musicians per class. Evening availability is required for this position, with classes beginning as early as 3:00pm.
- Establish and maintain a working class schedule accommodating students enrolled in pre-school programs.
- Work with Symphony Academy Managing Director to continually nurture the growth and improvement of the program.
- Meet regularly with BSP Manager and fellow Instructors to discuss the direction and development of the program.
- Attend promotional/recruitment community events as needed.

**Ideal Candidate Will Have/Be**

- Music education professional who is a violinist, violist and/or cellist. A degree in music is mandatory with music education preferred.
- Ability to start young students on violin, viola and cello.
- Knowledge and experience with the Suzuki method of string instruction. Formal Suzuki training is not a pre-requisite for this position.
- Ability to successfully promote themselves and our Beginning Strings Program, including effectively communicating the value of starting instruction on a string instrument at our targeted age.

Any interested candidate will be highly encouraged to take an audition for the Des Moines Symphony Orchestra's auditioned extras list. All candidate finalists will be asked to perform a brief musical selection as part of their interview. Candidate may also be asked to lead a sample class on request.

**Compensation**

\$34.48 per 45 minute class (9 total classes per semester)

**ABOUT OUR BEGINNING STRINGS PROGRAM**

The Des Moines Symphony Academy's Beginning Strings Program provides young, aspiring musicians with their first instructional experience on violin, viola or cello. Beginning Strings classes are offered for young musicians as young as 4 years of age.

Classes are offered in four semesters yearly—Fall, Winter, Spring, and Summer. Each 9-week semester consists of weekly 45-minute classes culminating in a large group class taking place during the tenth week, which will provide students with ensemble experience early on in the learning process. Students may join at the start of any semester.

The Symphony Academy Beginning Strings Program is designed for students to enter the program at age four or five and continue on until they are prepared to begin private lessons at the Symphony Academy and participate in the Symphony Academy Youth Orchestras program. When they move into private studios, they will have all of the skills necessary to move forward with productive weekly private lessons and to be fully participatory members of the Des Moines Symphony Youth Orchestras.

Classes are offered at The Temple for Performing Arts and area locations.

**APPLICATION PROCESS**

Please submit a cover letter and résumé to:

Amanda Drish  
Beginning Strings Program Manager  
Des Moines Symphony Academy  
The Temple for Performing Arts  
1011 Locust Street, Suite 400  
Des Moines, Iowa 50309

Or via email to: [amanda@dmsymphony.org](mailto:amanda@dmsymphony.org)

Applications will be accepted until the position is filled. Applicant screening process to begin immediately.

**dmsymphony.org**