



JOB DESCRIPTION: *Black Teaching Artist-in-Residence Fellowship 2024-2026 – VIOLIN*

Position Summary UniSound, a hub for youth music, seeks a highly-qualified, energetic, emerging professional VIOLIN TEACHING ARTIST for a Teaching Artist Fellowship during the 2024-2025 and 2025-2026 seasons. The Black Teaching Artist Fellow will work closely with UniSound and partnering organizations to plan curriculum and to teach in a wide variety of community settings. As an emerging professional, the Black Teaching Artist Fellow will gain valuable professional experience working alongside quality youth music programs and community organization in the culturally rich Pittsburgh, PA region.

The UniSound Black Teaching Artist Fellowship is a two-year, full-time position for an early career music teaching artist who identifies as Black or of African descent. Due to the current needs of the Pittsburgh ecosystem, for the 2024-2026 session priority will be given to teaching artists who are able to teach violin.

The BTAR Fellow will split their time between teaching private, group classes, and chamber coachings through our partnership with Hope Academy and other participating organizations and facilitating workshops in community and educational settings. The BTAR Fellow will also be encouraged to collaborate and perform with local arts organizations (for additional compensation).

Accountabilities:

- Work with UniSound and its partners to create and maintain a consistent schedule
- Plan and deliver high-quality private music instruction to students from 4 to 18 years old (with the exception of Suzuki teaching artists, who may have students as young as 3 years old)
- Develop and facilitate music-related workshops in local community organizations and schools (2-4 hours/per week)
- Serve as a thought partner alongside the Black Teaching Artist(s) in Residence on the UniSound Steering Committee (as needed)
- Serve as an ambassador for UniSound and its partners for media opportunities (as needed)
- Collaborate and communicate with parents, administrative staff, and faculty of partner organizations
- In partnership with the Executive Director, determine additional areas of interest/skill if applicable.

Position Requirements:

- Bachelor's degree in music education or performance required; additional coursework or training in music pedagogy preferred. Commensurate teaching experience and artistic accomplishment are also considered in lieu of a degree.
- Music teaching artist who identifies as Black or of African descent.
- Ability to teach a range of students from very young beginners through advanced out-of-repertoire students.
- An understanding that this position involved interacting with children and youth who may look to the Fellow as a role model/inspiration.
- Experience working with children of different ages, abilities, and from diverse backgrounds.

- High level of personal musicianship.
- Personable, collaborative nature and ability to work with staff and families, and community members from diverse backgrounds.
- Regular access and ability to use internet and email.
- Successful candidate must either have access to a vehicle, or comfort navigating public transportation.
- Must live within 75 miles of Pittsburgh.
- Applicants must be eligible for employment in the United States.
- PA Criminal History clearance, PA Child Abuse clearance, FBI background check required, and Mandated Reporter Training Certificate Required (TRYPO will cover cost if successful candidate does not already have them).

Desired Bonus Skills:

- While not required, if the successful candidate has other skills or interests in arts administration, such as social media or grant writing, this position can be customized to explore those if there is mutual interest and availability in the candidate’s schedule.

Employment Details:

Hours and Workload: This is a full-time, salaried position that will have significant evening and weekend hours. We will work together to develop a manageable schedule that includes time for individual practice, and protocols/coverage for time off.

Reports to: UniSound Program Coordinator, Three Rivers Young Peoples Orchestras (fiscal sponsor)

Join us and enjoy a comprehensive range of benefits designed to support your professional growth and personal well-being as a musician and teaching artist:

Base Salary*: Earn between \$35,000 and \$40,000 base salary annually, with the final offer reflecting your unique skills and experiences.

Housing & Transportation Support: Benefit from a two-year housing and/or transportation stipend, easing your transition to Pittsburgh (up to \$1,200/month).

Full Health Coverage: Stay healthy with our health, vision, and dental insurance plans, with 100% of premiums paid by us.

Paid Time Off: Recharge with our paid vacation policy and official holidays.

Retirement Plan: Plan for your future with our Simple IRA, featuring a 3% employer match – a solid step towards securing your retirement.

Professional Development: Grow your career with our professional development funds, offering up to \$2,000 annually to invest in your skills and career aspirations.

Ongoing Learning & Growth: Leverage access to professional development resources, mentorship programs, and additional paid creative and teaching opportunities.

Employment Status: Non-exempt

This role isn't just a job; it's a pathway to personal and professional transformation. We're committed to your development and well-being every step of the way. In turn, we hope that you will help us expand access to inclusive out-of-school time music opportunities for youth in our region!

***Note:** Pittsburgh's cost of living is [notably affordable compared to other cities](#) of its size across the United States, ensuring your salary goes further here. (For information on how this base salary compares to salaries in your current city/town, [check out this cost of living calculator](#))

How to apply: Please send cover letter and resume to Act 3 Consulting Partners via e-mail at btar@unisound.us by **Friday, March 15, 2024**. (Please list job title in the subject line). We will continue reviewing applications until the position is filled.

ABOUT UNISOUND

What is UniSound's mission?

UniSound aims to create a more accessible, sustainable, and equitable youth music ecosystem in the greater Pittsburgh area through building an alliance of organizations which provide music education and performance opportunities for youth.

What do we do?

- *Strengthen Organizations:* UniSound strengthens organizations that provide opportunities for children and teens to create music.
 - Professional development and networking to help organizations learn new and pertinent skills and practices, build capacity, collaborate, and form partnerships.
 - Mini-Grants that celebrate and support existing work that our organizations are already doing!
 - Paid opportunities for organizations and their teaching artists to participate in community engagement events, write blog posts, and more.
- *Connect Musical Families with Opportunities:* UniSound makes it easier for Pittsburgh families to find organizations that provide out-of-school-time music-making opportunities for their children.
 - A comprehensive directory on the UniSound website, to make it easier for families to find the best programs and private teachers for their children.
 - Shared marketing initiatives.
 - An event listing to showcase local music-making activities.
- *Speak Up:* UniSound will have a voice in important conversations, policies, and initiatives in our region.
 - Identify common issues and causes related to overall arts education access and equity in our region.
 - Continue our Black Teaching Artists-in-Residence Program.

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UniSound is a program of Three Rivers Young Peoples Orchestras (TRYPO), but is ultimately a collaborative project of more than 40 Pittsburgh area organizations that share a common trait of providing opportunities for children and/or teens to create music out-of-school time.

TRYPO is passionate about building and sustaining an inclusive and equitable working and learning environment for all students, staff, and faculty. We believe every member of our team enriches our diversity by exposing us to a broad range of ways to understand and engage with the world, identify challenges, and to discover, design, and deliver solutions.

