

2024 New York City Center Student Orchestra Award

The Broadway Education Alliance is excited to partner with New York City Center to spotlight a student pit orchestra that demonstrates exceptional accomplishment in musical theater performance. One high school will be selected as the winner and will have the opportunity to play the opening and closing numbers at the 2024 Roger Rees Awards showcase, as well as work with a guest conductor affiliated with the New York City Center Encores! series.

Winning group will receive:

- Masterclass and final dress rehearsal with guest conductor during the weekend of the Roger Rees Awards
- Two performance opportunities at the 2024 Roger Rees Awards on May 19, 2024
 - Opening Number: *Back to the Future* – conducted by guest conductor
 - Closing Number: “Find Your Grail” from *Spamalot* – conducted by the school’s faculty conductor

ELIGIBILITY

Student pit orchestras of musical theater productions at high schools in the Greater New York City area are eligible to submit for this opportunity. Schools must be presenting an officially licensed edition of a NYSMTA® approved Broadway musical, per the requirements of the Roger Rees Awards.

This award highlights the achievement of student musicians. Therefore, we require that at least 80% of the total orchestra must be high school students to be eligible for this award. However, we understand that there are many circumstances which may require adult or professional musicians to be brought in. If you have adults playing in your orchestra, the application provides space for you to give more context.

After a winner is chosen, High School Music Directors and Teachers will be required to rehearse the numbers before the Roger Rees Awards weekend. Dedicated rehearsal time will be allotted during the weekend of the Roger Rees Awards.

SELECTION PROCESS

A panel of esteemed musicians and musical theater professionals will review submissions for quality and richness of sound, and musicality.

KEY DATES

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| • Thursday, February 1 | Open for Applications/Submissions |
| • Monday, March 18 | Deadline for Applications/Submissions |
| • Friday, April 5 | Winner Announced |
| • Saturday, May 18 | Masterclass and Final Dress Rehearsal |
| • Sunday, May 19 | Rehearsal and The Roger Rees Awards Showcase |

APPLICANT REQUIREMENTS: STUDENT ORCHESTRA AWARD

Questions can be sent to: education@nycitycenter.org

Applicants should submit a video of the student pit orchestra playing piece(s) from the musical. The video should be shared as a link (to YouTube, Google Drive, OneDrive, etc.). Before submitting, please ensure that the audio quality is up to your standards and that the link's sharing permissions are updated such that anyone can access the video.

Guidelines for the video submission are as follows:

- The video can be **up to 2 minutes long** and should contain footage that you feel best represents the quality of the orchestra's work. The 2 minutes can be comprised of video clips featuring multiple songs.
- The sound from the video must be recorded live (ie. no b-roll video clips playing over a separate recording of the orchestra playing).
- The songs included in the video must be from your school's musical.
- Videos can be filmed in whatever way maximizes the sound quality of the recording; however, **the conductor and members of the orchestra should be visible**. The video should be **stationary** (the camera should not be moving around).
- The video must be a **rehearsal video**, rather than a clip from a performance.
- Since we want to focus on the quality of the orchestra, there should be **no singing or dancing** in the video submission.

In addition, submissions should include a PDF document listing all orchestra members, organized by instrument. Each student should have their full name and grade level listed. If any orchestra members are not currently enrolled as high school students, please list them and indicate that they are not students. If the orchestra is comprised of students from multiple high schools, please list the school after each student's name and grade level.

DISCLAIMER: Due to logistical constraints, we will likely only be able to accommodate a maximum number of 20 student musicians at the Roger Rees awards.