



Common Application for Summer Study

2023 Impact Report



Table of Contents

3 Behind the Common Application for Summer Study

6 Common Application by the Numbers

- ▶ Snapshot
- ▶ Data by Program
- ▶ Applicant Constituency Groups

11 Summer Study Partner Profiles

- ▶ Ascent International Chamber Music Festival
- ▶ Boston University Tanglewood Institute
- ▶ Brevard Music Center
- ▶ Green Mountain Chamber Music Festival
- ▶ Interlochen Arts Camp
- ▶ Kinhaven Music School
- ▶ Luzerne Music Center
- ▶ National Orchestral Institute + Festival
- ▶ National Repertory Orchestra
- ▶ National Symphony Orchestra Summer Music Institute
- ▶ National Youth Orchestra of the United States of America & National Youth Orchestra 2
- ▶ New England Conservatory Summer Orchestra Institute
- ▶ Sewanee Summer Music Festival
- ▶ VIA Academy

25 Future Considerations



Boston University Tanglewood Institute. Photo by Carlin Ma

Behind the Common Application for Summer Study

Summer study is an essential experience in the musical journey. In intensive, immersive environments, young musicians are surrounded by new experiences, teachers, and peers, which will hugely impact their futures. The focused environment, where musicians develop their personal networks with like-minded peers, creates opportunities for tremendous musical growth. The ability to connect with new faculty can also impact future musical development. Despite the importance of summer study, there are numerous considerations that create barriers to participation: application fees, time investment required to complete multiple applications, preparation of distinct audition lists, and connection with summer study representatives all impede access to these importance learning opportunities. The costs associated with summer study and concerns around safety and belonging can be further prohibitive. While many summer study institutions seek to build equitable spaces and practices, there has been limited collective action to make sector-wide change.



Interlochen Arts Camp

Origin Story and Pilot Season

Shortly after Equity Arc's official launch in 2021, we sat down with Katherine Drago Luellen, who was Executive Dean of Enrollment Management at the Interlochen Center for the Arts at the time, and who had been part of the working groups that led to the launch of our organization, to explore the possibility of designing a shared application that would be of interest in the summer study space. A preliminary meeting demonstrated that there was both interest and enthusiasm in piloting an application that would be accepted by all partnering programs.

The programs convened represent some of the finest institutions of summer learning that collectively serve musicians across the musical arc and who share a desire to dismantle barriers to participation. Their willingness to work with Equity Arc and commit to accepting our application empowered us to design a revolutionary resource for musicians of color: a common application that would allow an eligible musician to apply to any partnering summer program for which they are eligible through one application and audition, for free.

With a coalition of partners ready to launch this revolutionary initiative, we connected with Acceptd, the premier application and audition platform that has a mission to help people in the arts community flourish. Through our initial meeting with Acceptd's president, Jerry Tsai, it was clear that they would be excellent partners to bring the vision to life.

“Acceptd and Equity Arc share a mission to help artists flourish by connecting them with great opportunities. Our platform is a perfect fit for the Common Application for Summer Study, providing a straightforward experience for applicants and giving member programs access to our powerful behind-the-scenes tools and insights. Acceptd has always been committed to removing barriers for applicants, and we believe in the work that Equity Arc is doing to increase access and opportunity for BIPOC musicians. We’re proud to partner with Equity Arc and its members in advancing those goals!”

– Eric Frisch, Account Relations Manager

The pilot season application came together quickly, with representatives from each program providing insight into the required information they would need and streamlining requirements to create a simple application. To make this tool more accessible, they also agreed to accept any audition materials of an applicant’s choice so long as orchestral excerpts were included. By guiding eligible applicants to Equity Arc’s Common Application through Acceptd, partners waived the application fees they would typically collect, allowing Equity Arc to cover fees for our applicants. Our partners’ dedication to building equity was underscored by their commitment to offer at least one full-tuition fellowship to a Common Application musician who met the standards for admission.

The pilot application launched with 11 partners in December of 2021. For each new applicant, Equity Arc’s staff reviewed the programs of interest, ensured eligibility criteria were met, and assigned the appropriate reviewer from each partner. 76 musicians submitted applications in the first year, each of whom was ultimately accepted into at least one program. While the pilot was successful, there were clear areas for improvement and our partners were excited to meet and discuss how we could make the experience better for all users. Their willingness to explore, commitment to transparency and sharing information, and excitement to improve led to numerous developments for the second season.



Luzerne Music Center



National Orchestral Institute + Festival.
Photo by David Andrews



National Repertory Orchestra. Photo by Joshua Geurink

Season 2 Adjustments and Outcomes

Acceptd's willingness to find solutions was key to improving the experience. In the second season, each partner was set up as a "unique" application through Equity Arc's landing page on Acceptd. Once an applicant submitted their first application, their answers would autofill into any additional application that they began, keeping the spirit of a common application intact. Importantly, this adjustment allowed each partner significantly more autonomy to connect with applicants and greater capacity to engage with data. Another improvement was the development of a shared audition list, which demonstrated again that partners were willing to be flexible in order to empower musicians. Too often, we hear that each applicant must play the same repertoire in order to be reviewed. The Common App has demonstrated that it is possible to share audition lists without threatening the quality of playing. A virtual summer study fair was another addition to the second season, bringing together prospective musicians from across the country to hear about each partner's program and help make decisions about which program was the best fit for their summer study. Finally, the precedent set in the pilot season attracted new partners, and each pilot partner stayed on for the second season.

The importance of this tool speaks for itself. We more than doubled the number of applicants in our second season and Equity Arc fellows will be on the campuses of each of our partners this summer. We are especially excited for this initiative to grow in future summers, to continue to be refined and improved, and to continue prioritizing the demolition of barriers to these important growth opportunities for our musicians.

Common Application by the Numbers

SNAPSHOT

156

Individual Applicants

322

Applications Submitted

157

Accepted Applications

57

Enrolled Participants

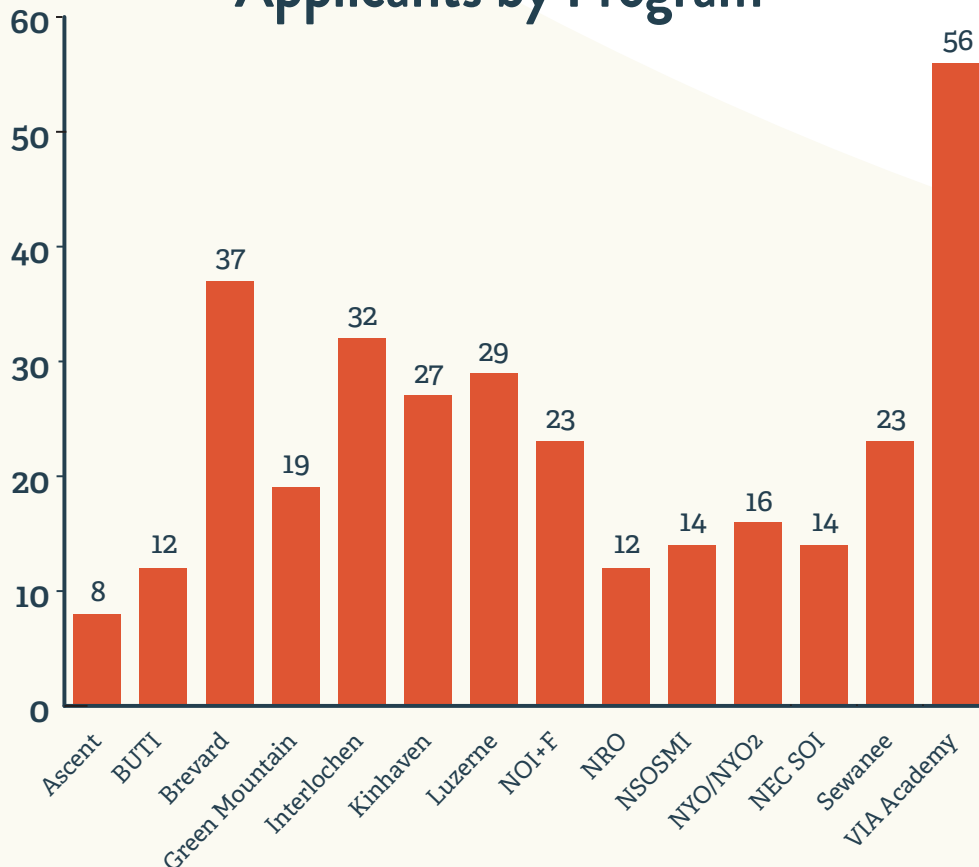
2

Average applications submitted per person

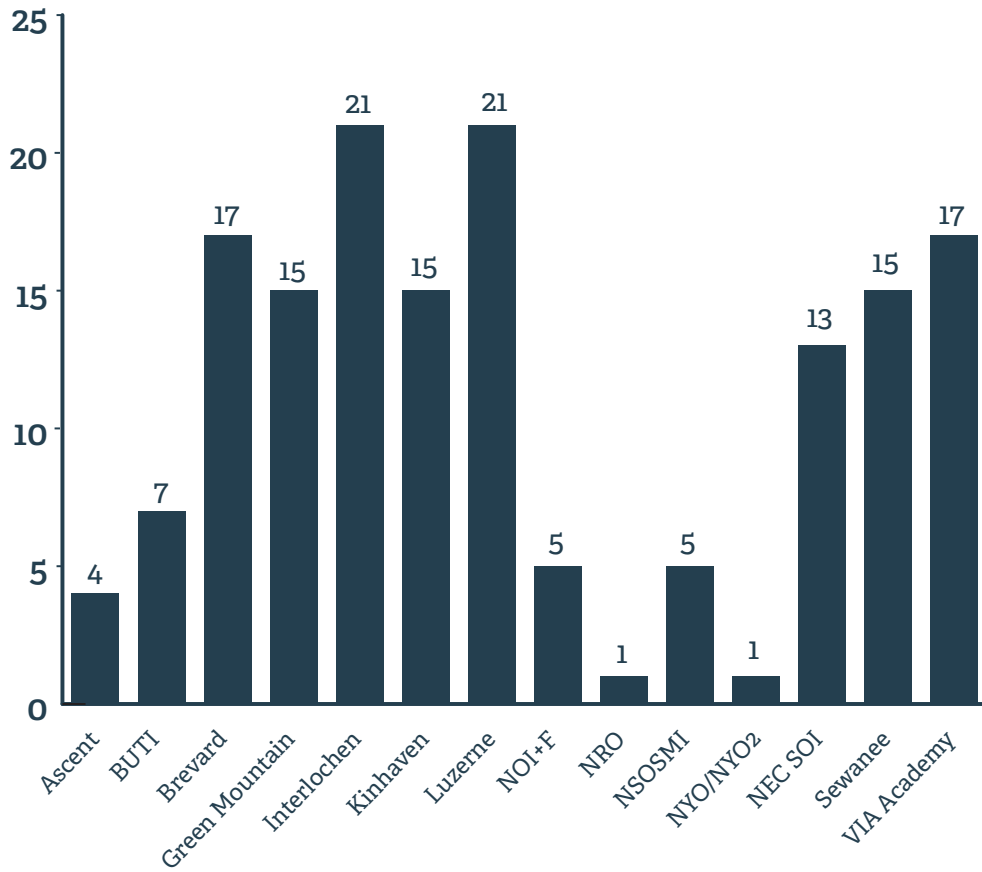
\$260k+

In Scholarships Awarded

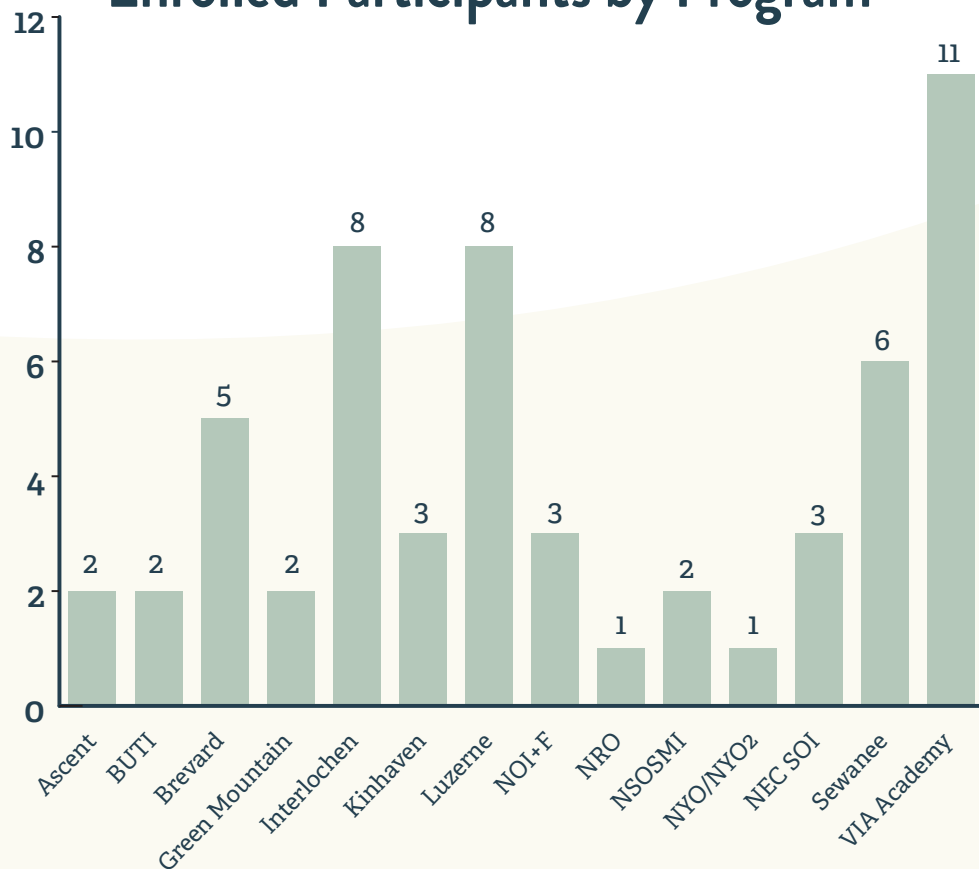
Applicants by Program



Accepted Applicants by Program



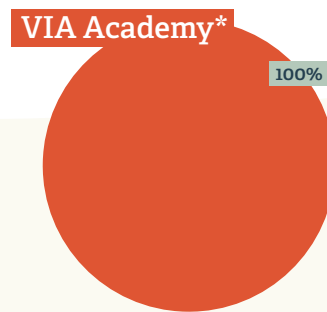
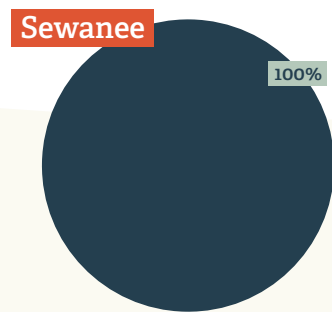
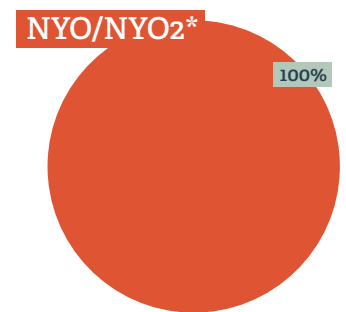
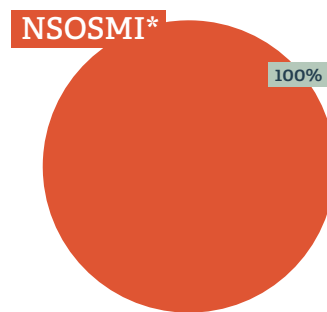
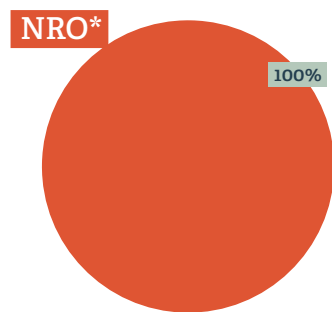
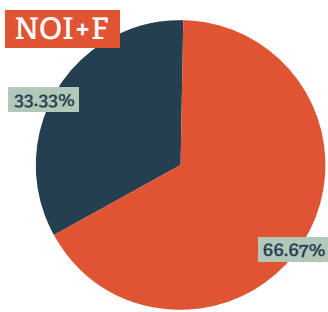
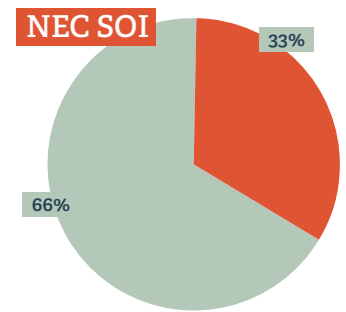
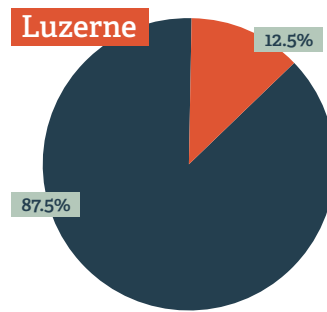
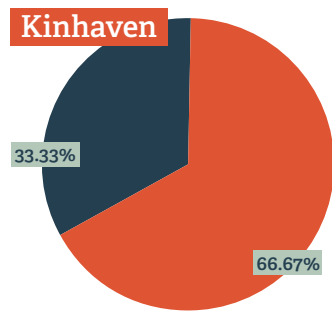
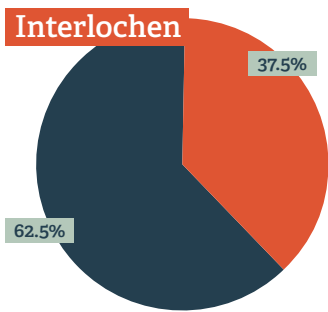
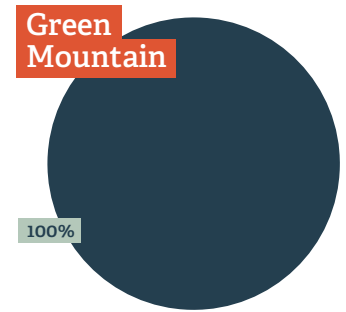
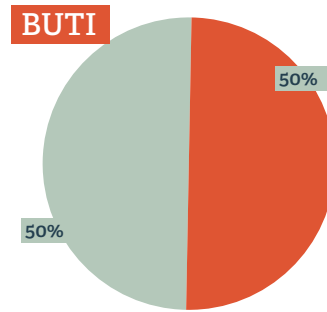
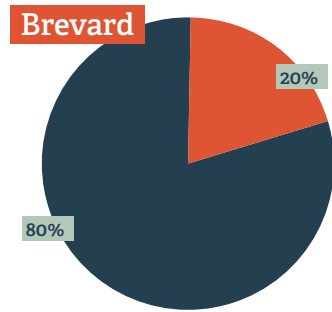
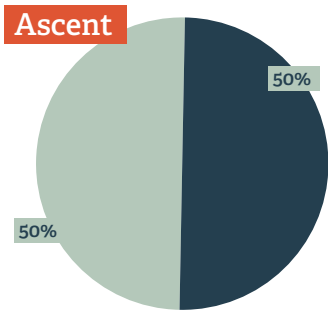
Enrolled Participants by Program



Financial Support by Program

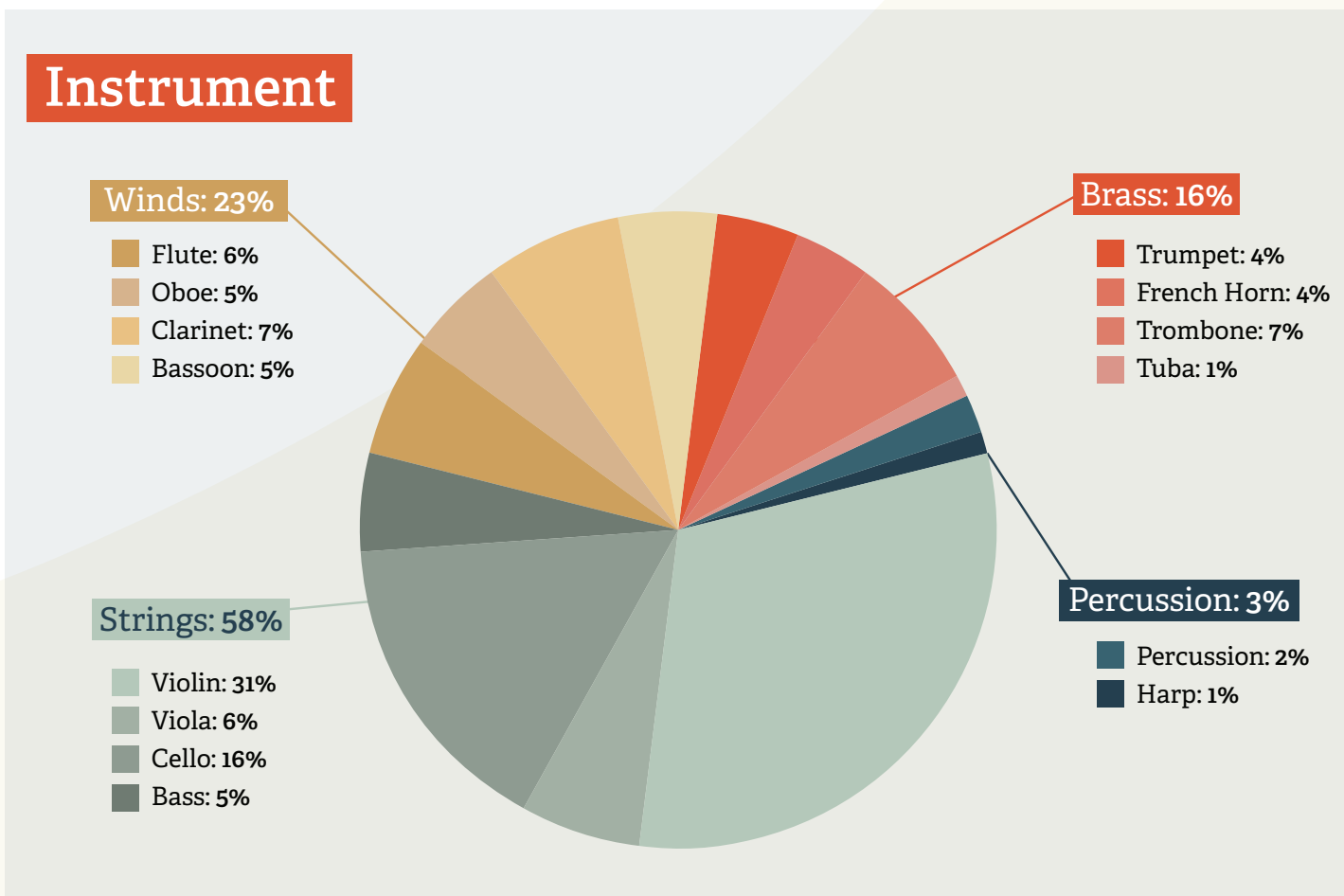
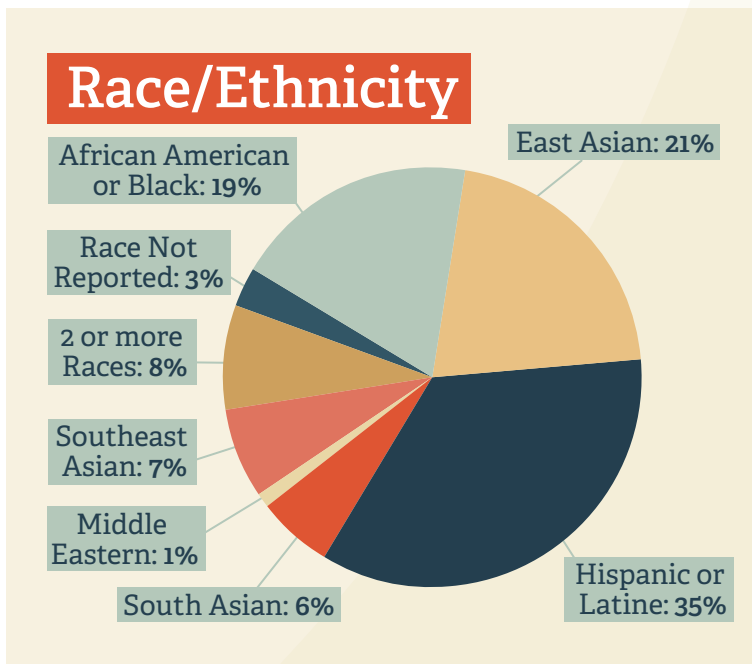
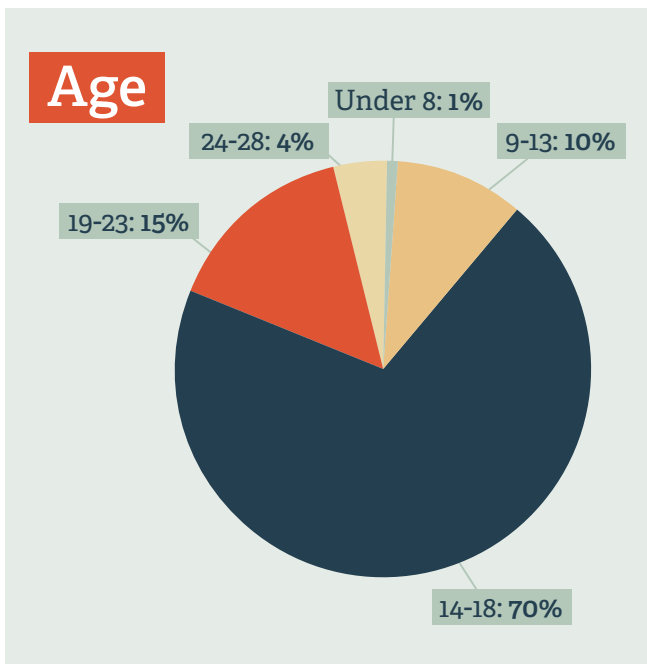
Each program offered an applicant at least one full-tuition scholarship. This data represents the financial aid accepted by enrolled applicants and is self-reported by our summer study partners.

- No Aid Reported
- Partial Support
- Full Support
- *Tuition Free Program



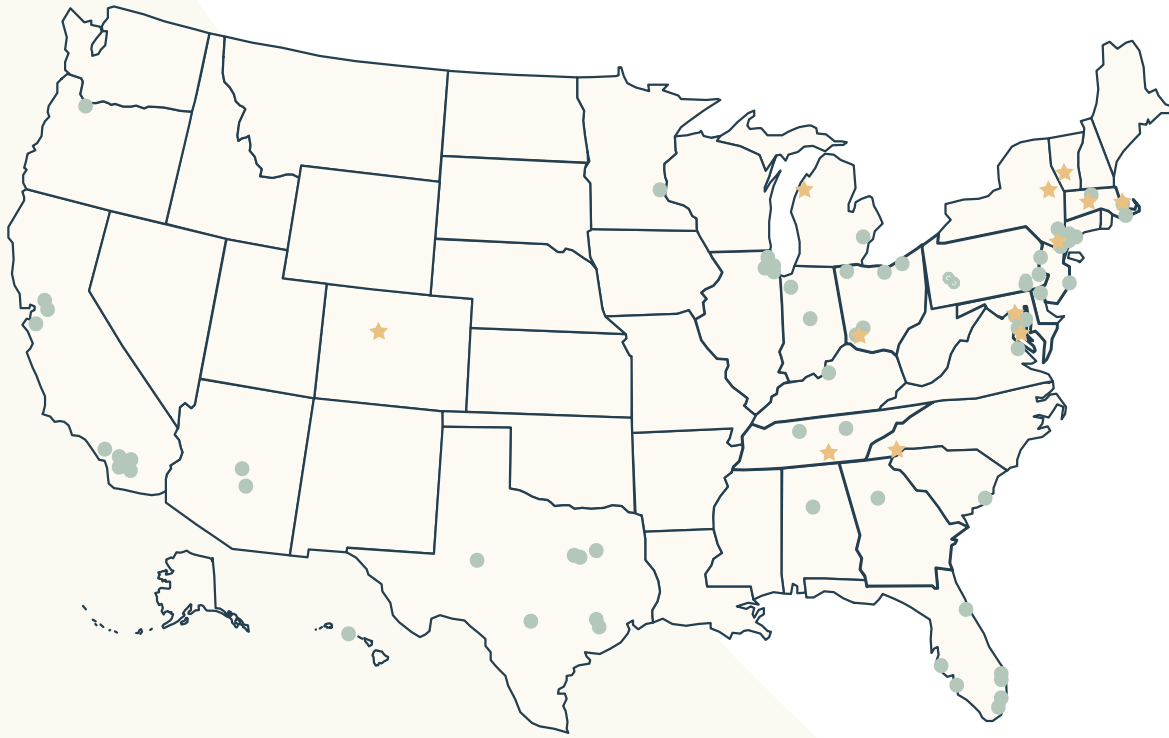
Applicant Constituency Groups

Percentages are rounded to the nearest whole number



Location

The 2023 Common Application for Summer Study reached applicants across over half of the United States



★ = Summer Study Partner Cities

Amherst, MA Boston, MA (2) Breckenridge, CO Brevard, NC	Cincinnati, OH College Park, MD Interlochen, MI Lake Luzerne, NY	New York City, NY Sewanee, TN Washington, DC Weston, VT
--	---	--

AL - Hoover	- Homestead - Jacksonville	- Skokie - Waukegan	MI - Interlochen - Oak Park	OH - Bates - Bedford - Blue Ash - Cincinnati - Liberty Township - Oberlin	- Midland - Missouri City - Rockwall - San Antonio (5) - Sugar Land
AZ - Scottsdale - Tempe	- Miami (2) - Naples (2) - Sarasota - West Palm Beach	IN - Bloomington - Schererville	MN - Minneapolis	OR - Portland	VA - Alexandria - Fairfax - West Springfield
CA - Buena Park - La Canada Flintridge - Los Angeles - Palo Alto - Placentia - Pleasanton (2) - Riverside - San Gabriel - San Ramon	GA - Duluth	KY - Louisville (2)	NJ - Alpine (2) - Cherry Hill (2) - Englewood - Hopewell - North Haledon - Stafford Township - Tenafly - Trenton	PA - Dresher - Gibsonia - Philadelphia (6) - Pittsburgh	WA - University Place
CT - Southbury - Trumbull	HI - Kailua	MA - Allston - Boston (10) - Dartmouth - Foxborough	NY - Bronx - Brooklyn - Flushing - Hicksville - Jericho - Manhasset - New York City (5) - Port Washington - Richmond Hill	SC - Myrtle Beach	Washington D.C. (3) International - Arecibo, Puerto Rico - Panama City, Panama - Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario
DE - Hockessin	IL - Chicago (18) - Countryside - Des Plaines - Glenview - Golf - Hoffman Estates - Homewood - Lincolnshire - Lincolnwood - Morton Grove - Oak Park (2) - Palatine - Park Forest	MD - Bowie - Davidsonville - Germantown (2) - Glenelg - Highland - Potomac (3) - Rockville (2)	TX - Arlington - Dallas - Katy		

Summer Study Partner Profiles

Ascent International Chamber Music Festival



LOCATION: Cincinnati, OH

AGE RANGE: 13-30

PROGRAM AT A GLANCE

- Ascent International Chamber Music Festival is an opportunity for outstanding string players ages 14-30 to study solo and chamber music repertoire in an intensive setting.
- The three-week festival focuses on development of the whole musician with ample time for solo practice and excerpt preparation in addition to the emphasis on chamber music coaching.
- The festival takes place on the campus of the University of Cincinnati, College-Conservatory of Music.
- Ascent Music Faculty represent some of the finest colleges and conservatories in the country.



"The Common Application has helped us reach a more diverse pool of applicants and has helped with our goal of being more diverse and inclusive as a program."

—Alan Rafferty, Founder and Director of Ascent Music

Boston University Tanglewood Institute

LOCATION: Boston, MA

AGE RANGE: 14-20

Boston University Tanglewood Institute

PROGRAM AT A GLANCE

- BUTI is an intensive program with multiple study options.
- In the 2-week workshops, participants immerse themselves in their craft and learn from the best in the field in small group settings
- The Young Artists Program is a more intensive 6-week program where participants make music at the highest level in an artistic environment without parallel.
- Participants study with musicians from the Boston Symphony Orchestra and Tanglewood Music Center.
- BUTI is open to students between the age of 14-20 who have not yet begun their collegiate experience.



"The Common Application has simply opened my eyes to how many summer festivals are out there for young musicians, and allowed me to make a very informed decision about where I will attend through having multiple options."

—Emilia Lacy, Equity Arc Fellow

Brevard Music Center Summer Institute and Festival

LOCATION: Brevard, NC

AGE RANGE: 14-18 and 18-29



PROGRAM AT A GLANCE

- Brevard is a highly intensive orchestral program that has both high school and collegiate divisions.
- The high school orchestral institute (ages 14-18) runs for 6 weeks and the college division (ages 18-29) is 7 weeks.
- BMC participants learn by sitting with principal player from major symphonies and working with exceptional guest artists, Grammy-winning composers, and peers from across the country.
- In addition to orchestra rehearsals, you'll have weekly lessons, studio classes, chamber coachings, and sectionals.



"The Common App made it much easier to apply to summer programs with one set of recordings. I was auditioning for college and had a lot of material to learn and record. It was really helpful to not have to produce a different set of recordings for each program."

—Seth Corlew, Equity Arc Fellow

Green Mountain Chamber Music Festival

LOCATION: Amherst, MA

AGE RANGE: 14-30



PROGRAM AT A GLANCE

- Green Mountain Chamber Music Festival is an opportunity for committed musicians to dedicate themselves to developing their solo playing and honing their chamber music skills
- High school, college, and graduate age musicians spend four weeks on the shore of Lake Champlain.
- Green Mountain is an opportunity for emerging artists to flourish in an atmosphere of focused professionalism in a supportive community.



"It's a great coalition of summer programs with a common goal of expanding these wonderful opportunities to as many students as possible."

—Amanda Stenroos, General Manager

Photos by
Yuetong Jia

Interlochen Arts Camp

LOCATION: Interlochen, MI

AGE RANGE: 8-18



Interlochen
CENTER FOR THE ARTS

PROGRAM AT A GLANCE

- Interlochen's summer programs are open to pre-college students with many different focuses, such as orchestra and chamber music.
- Interlochen's programs are mid-high intensity and run 1, 3, 4, and 6-weeks.



"The Common Application has helped me expand my options of where I can apply and also eased the financial burden of various applications. I haven't gone to a camp like Interlochen before and I'm very excited to experience everything it has to offer."

—Sarah Morris, Equity Arc Fellow

Kinhaven Music School

LOCATION: Weston, VT

AGE RANGE: 9-28



PROGRAM AT A GLANCE

- Kinhaven offers multiple program tracks for musicians of different ages and interests
- The senior session is a six-week program for high school-aged musicians with a focus on chamber music
- The junior session is a two-week residential program for middle school-aged musicians
- The young artist seminar is a week-long residential program for musicians aged 18-28, with intensive study and performance of chamber works



"We at Kinhaven were thrilled and, quite frankly, amazed at the number of common applications this summer. For a summer school that only has 40 spots open each year, to see almost 30 apps come from the common app was spectacular. Thanks to the common app and other partnerships, Kinhaven has gone from 1% BIPOC student population in 2011 to over 30% in 2023."

—Anthony Mazzocchi, Executive Director

Luzerne Music Center

LOCATION: Lake Luzerne, NY

AGE RANGE: 9-18

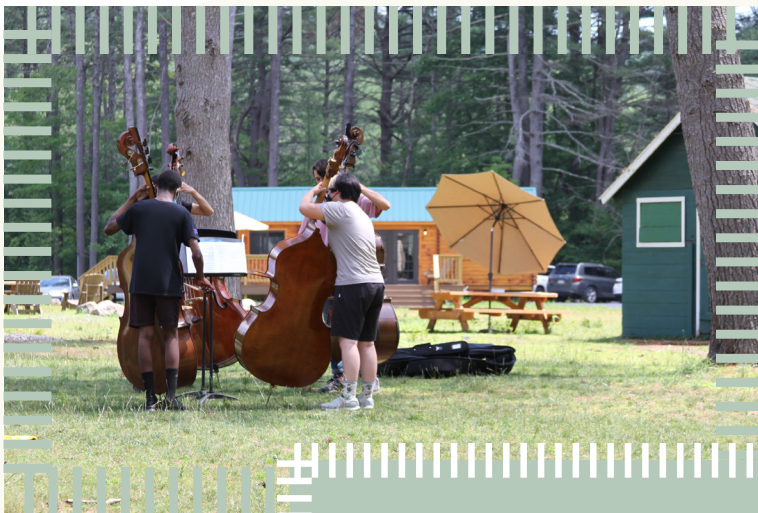


LUZERNE Music Center

CAMP AND FESTIVAL

PROGRAM AT A GLANCE

- Luzerne Music Center offers students opportunities for chamber music, orchestral training, and music theory and rhythm courses.
- Luzerne offers junior and senior sessions, determined by age. Students ages 9-18 study at Luzerne. Senior session students train with musicians from The Philadelphia Orchestra for one week.
- More than 30 student and faculty concerts take place each summer on campus and in the community.



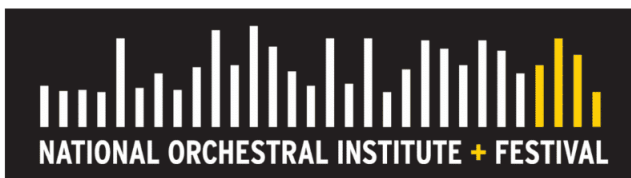
"We love the premise of the Common Application as a way to make summer study more accessible to participants through an easier (and free) application platform. We've seen more diversity in our applicants and subsequently in our camp."

—Emily Brown, Camp Director

National Orchestral Institute + Festival

LOCATION: College Park, MD

AGE RANGE: 18-30



PROGRAM AT A GLANCE

- NOI+F is a highly intensive orchestral program for participants aged 18-28
- The NOI+F Philharmonic received a Grammy nomination in the “Best Orchestral Performance” category for their Naxos recording “Ruggles, Stucky, Harbison”.
- Faculty are drawn from leading North American symphony orchestras and conservatories.



“Getting selected for this orchestra has already progressed my musical talents exponentially. The orchestra experience I have gotten in this camp is one of the best experiences I’ve had to date and this has only boosted my drive to become a professional orchestral musician.”

—Kahlin Jordan, Equity Arc Fellow

National Repertory Orchestra

LOCATION: Breckenridge, CO

AGE RANGE: 18-29



NATIONAL
REPERTORY
orchestra

PROGRAM AT A GLANCE

- The National Repertory is a highly intensive 8-week orchestral program
- Musicians ages 18-29 perform as many as 21 concerts each season
- The Orchestra is led by world-renowned guest conductors in addition to Music Director Michael Stern



Photos by
Elaine Collins
and Joshua
Geruink

"It is important that organizations like the NRO be as accessible and welcoming as possible. Equity Arc is critical to that goal."

—Dan Howard, Director of Operations and Education

National Symphony Orchestra Summer Music Institute

LOCATION: Washington, DC

AGE RANGE: 15-20

National Symphony Orchestra Summer Music Institute

 National Symphony Orchestra
The Kennedy Center

PROGRAM AT A GLANCE

- The National Symphony Orchestra Summer Music Institute is designed to prepare students for a 21st-Century career in music.
- The four-week program is open to students ages 15-20 who are devoted to a well-rounded musical education.
- Students work with musicians from the National Symphony Orchestra and take part in workshops.



"The Common Application for Summer Study made my applications for summer festival much more accessible by creating a universal set of solo repertoire and excerpts to submit. It opened up many options for my summer study by eliminating the cost of application fees and by allowing me to submit standard repertoire I had worked on during my college applications."

— Ande Bernal, Equity Arc Fellow

National Youth Orchestra of the United States of America & National Youth Orchestra 2

LOCATION: New York City + Tour

AGE RANGE: 16-19 and 14-17

NYO
USA

NYO2

PROGRAM AT A GLANCE

- The National Youth Orchestra of the United States of America is a highly intensive orchestral program.
- Students ages 16-19 participate in the program.
- The program is 3-4 weeks and includes an international tour.
- Before the tour, rehearsals take place on the campus of Purchase College, State University of New York.
- NYO2 is an intensive 3- to 4-week training orchestral program.
- Musicians ages 14-17 work closely with top players from American orchestras and conservatories during residencies at Purchase College, State University of New York and New World Center in Florida.
- Students from around the country come together to study orchestral repertoire and develop as musicians.



Photos by
Chris Lee



"We have been able to reach more students for our applications, and are continuing to network with similar programs as well as Pathways programs to spread the word about our offerings."

—Kari Fitterer, Assistant Director of Artist Training Programs

New England Conservatory Summer Orchestra Institute

LOCATION: Boston, MA

AGE RANGE: 13-18



PROGRAM AT A GLANCE

- NEC Summer Orchestra Institute is a two-week full symphony orchestra program in Boston, Massachusetts.
- Students ages 13-18 who are intermediate to advanced-level study at NEC SOI.
- The SOI faculty have dynamic performing and teaching careers with some of the finest institutions in the world.



Sewanee Summer Music Festival

LOCATION: Sewanee, TN

AGE RANGE: 11-13 and 14-24



PROGRAM AT A GLANCE

- Sewanee Summer Music Festival is an artistic incubator where musicians work closely with renowned artist-faculty in an intensive, supportive environment.
- The four-week Festival is for students ages 14-24 offers orchestral experiences and chamber music study.
- Sewanee also offers seminars in a range of topics throughout the festival, such as building a freelance career and mock interviews.



Photos by
David Andrews



"This is a very important initiative to remove barriers for young musicians of color. Participating in the Common Application for Summer Study expands our applicant pool and connects us with young musicians who might not have heard of our program otherwise."

—Anna Burklin, Manager of Marketing and Admissions

VIA Academy

LOCATION: Virtual + Miami

AGE RANGE: 14-18



V I A A c a d e m y

PROGRAM AT A GLANCE

- VIA Academy's programming is open to students in grades 9-12
- The program runs for two weeks and focuses on whole-musician education in addition to intensive solo study
- VIA Academy is a medium intensity program and all travel costs are covered



"With our first year being associated with the Common Application, VIA Academy has already benefitted from the initiative. It's an incredible opportunity to increase the impact of your organization while being a part of the pathway in a student's music life."

—Christopher Robinson, Founder and Co-Artistic Director

Future Considerations

We learned many lessons through collaboration with our summer partners, and look forward to turning these lessons into improvements and precedents:

- Based on feedback from Common App musicians, we are exploring how the wide range of deadlines for both applications and enrollment impact overall musician success.
- To increase the connection between summer study partners and applicants, help musicians find the best program for them, and help build trust, we will hold a series of virtual fairs that are tailored to each age group. It is our goal to build deeper connections with parents and musicians alike, helping to ensure the success of each musician.
- Building these relationships will also help to fortify communication between partners and applicants. Often, communication may stop through the decision process and partners may not have information as to why a particular musician has turned down an enrollment opportunity. Improving communication will benefit both partners and musicians.
- Our partners are committed to fostering safe, productive, and rewarding experiences to all musicians on their campuses. We look forward to learning more about the specific resources they have created and to developing more resources to benefit musicians on campuses across the country.
- We are especially interested in identifying new partners for the Common Application and increasing the number of opportunities for our musicians. 14 programs partnered for the 2023 summer season and we aim to increase the number of partners, creating greater access for our musicians.
- The shared repertoire list has been a hugely impactful development. We look forward to building on this precedent to advocate for more shared lists across the musical arc.
- Ensuring the sustainability of the Common Application is a major consideration. As more and more musicians use this tool, it is imperative that we identify ways to fund this resource.
- We are especially excited to build on the foundations of the Common Application for Summer Study and extend this tool into other phases of the arc. Building common applications in the collegiate and professional training phases of study are high on our list of priorities.

We are grateful to all of our partners for their generosity, willingness to forge new pathways, and interest in collaboration. This initiative would not be possible without them, and their eagerness for joint action has led to something hugely impactful for musicians across the country. We are thankful for our members, whose dues help to support this initiative and for the support of the Paul M. Angell Family Foundation. We are humbled by the opportunity to work with these partners and to have created a game-changing resource, helping to level the playing field in classical music.



EQUITY ARC