



**WEST TEXAS
SYMPHONY**

Maestro Gary Lewis, Music Director and Conductor

The West Texas Symphony announces auditions for
Principal Viola
and resident string quartet member

AUDITION DATES: **Friday, May 15th, 2026**

AUDITION LOCATION: **Wagner Noël Performing Arts Center
1310 Farm to Market 1788
Midland, TX 79707**

APPLICATION DEADLINE: **Monday, April 27th, 2026** (*deadline is for receipt of materials, not postmark*)

Minimum Requirements: *Candidates should hold a degree in Viola Performance. Master's degree preferred. Candidates must have excellent sight reading and chamber ensemble skills.*

Due to the nature of this position, the winning candidate must reside in the greater Midland-Odessa area during the concert season (August through May)

TO APPLY:

mail a one-page resume and \$50 deposit check to:

West Texas Symphony
Attn: Principal Viola Auditions
PO Box 60658
Midland, TX 79711

email a PDF of your resume to auditions@wtxs.org

DEPOSIT CHECKS should be made out to the *West Texas Symphony*, with "*Principal Viola Audition*" included in the memo line. Checks will be returned at the audition or shredded if cancellation is requested prior to the respective application deadline. Applications will not be considered complete until a **deposit check** is received.

RESUME REQUIREMENTS: Include your current phone number, email and mailing addresses, as well as the position for which you are applying ("*Principal Viola*"). Succinctly outline your educational background, including all degrees and principal instructors. Include professional engagements and pedagogical experience, specifying lengths of each engagement as applicable (e.g. maintaining a private studio from 2022 to present). Limit the document to one page.

PAY SCALE: \$100.00 per service, and an annual stipend of \$14,744, paid in monthly installments over the duration of the concert season (August 1st through May 31st). Winning candidates can expect around 40 orchestral services per season.

Following the application deadline, qualified candidates will be contacted by our audition coordinator outlining specific times and audition day procedures.

The first season is probationary; successful completion may lead to a permanent roster position. The position will commence in August for the 2026–2027 Season.



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DESCRIPTION: This position includes serving as Principal Viola for the *West Texas Symphony*. Winning candidates will be offered a service agreement that includes, at a minimum, the four program Masterworks Series, the three program Pops & Family series, and an annual cycle of *The Nutcracker* in collaboration with *Midland Festival Ballet*.

The position also includes performing as a member of our resident string quartet, *The Permian Basin String Quartet*. During each season, the chamber ensemble typically performs two formal recitals and two educational programs for our local school districts (Midland and Ector County Independent School Districts).

Other orchestral and chamber concerts may be programmed during the season as well, including additional music education concerts, productions alongside our community partners, and performances hosted by Symphony Sponsors and Contributors.

The greater Midland-Odessa area offers numerous teaching and freelance opportunities. In accordance with the Symphony's mission statement, our local musicians maintain pedagogical involvement within the community, teaching in their own private studios, as well as at our many primary, secondary, and post-secondary schools – including The University of Texas Permian Basin, Midland College, and Odessa College. Additional performance opportunities are also frequently available throughout the region. Our symphony musicians are essential to the artistic and educational life of our community.

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PLEASE NOTE that we will be holding auditions for both *Principal Viola* and *Section Viola* concurrently. Please ensure you write "*Principal Viola*" on both your deposit check and resume, as well as in the "Attn:" line on our mailing address.

If you would like to be considered for BOTH Principal and Section Viola positions, please do the following:

Write "*Principal/Section Viola*" on both your deposit check and resume

Amend the "Attn:" line of our mailing address to read "Attn: Principal/Section Viola Auditions"

Repertoire will be identical for both positions. For more information, please refer to the Section Viola announcement posted on our website at www.wtxs.org, as that position's job description, requirements, and pay scale differ significantly from the Principal position (for instance, the *section* position does not have a residency requirement).

Only one deposit check is required if you choose to be considered for both positions.

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The mission of the West Texas Symphony is to enhance the quality of life in West Texas through professional music performances and music education. Led by Music Director Gary Lewis, the orchestra rehearses and performs in the acclaimed Wagner Noël Performing Arts Center. Since opening in 2011, this 1800-seat concert hall has gained national recognition for its acoustics and grandeur. Each season features a minimum of four Masterworks programs, three Pops & Family programs, and an annual production of *The Nutcracker* in collaboration with the Midland Festival Ballet. Beyond the core series, our season also includes music education concerts and other performances alongside community partners.

Visit www.wtxs.org for more information, or contact the West Texas Symphony Audition Coordinator at auditions@wtxs.org.
Applicants who are not U.S. citizens must have appropriate documentation of their ability to reside and work in the United States.
The West Texas Symphony is an Equal Opportunity Employer.



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West Texas Symphony
Principal/Section Viola
Audition Repertoire

SOLO REPERTOIRE

Candidate's choice of the **FIRST MOVEMENT EXPOSITION** of **ONE** of the following:

- Bartók Viola Concerto
- Hindemith *Der Schwanendreher*
- Walton Viola Concerto

ORCHESTRA EXCERPTS

Beethoven	Symphony No. 5	2 nd Movement: beginning to m. 10 mm. 23 – 37 mm. 49 – 59 mm. 98 – 106
Brahms	Variations on a Theme by Haydn	Variation 5 (mm. 206 – 263) Variation 7 (mm. 293 – 321) Variation 8 (mm. 322 – 360)
Copland	<i>Appalachian Spring</i>	rehearsal[6] – 1 m. before reh[14]
Ginastera	<i>Variaciones Concertantes</i>	Variation 5: reh[32] – reh[35]
Mendelssohn	<i>A Midsummer Night's Dream</i>	m. 17 – reh[D]
Mozart	Symphony No. 35	4 th Mvmt: mm. 134-181
Prokofiev	Symphony No. 5	2 nd Mvmt: 2 m. before reh[53] – reh[56]
Ravel	<i>Mother Goose Suite</i>	5 th Mvmt: 5 m. after reh[2] – 3m. after reh[3]
Shostakovich	Symphony No. 5	1 st Mvmt: reh[15] – reh[17]
Tchaikovsky	Symphony No. 6	1 st Mvmt: beginning – m. 88

CHAMBER MUSIC EXCERPTS (for PRINCIPAL VIOLA candidates only)

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| Smetana | String Quartet No. 1 | 1 st Mvmt: all |
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PRINCIPAL VIOLA finalists may be asked to perform chamber music sight-reading with members of the Permian Basin String Quartet

An audition excerpt packet will be available shortly from the 'auditions' page at www.wtxs.org. Please note that some selections are protected by copyright and may either not be included in the packet, or will need to be deleted/destroyed following your audition.