

# 2026 Blue Lake International Youth Symphony Orchestra

## Information Sheet

The Blue Lake International Youth Symphony Orchestra is comprised of talented and inspired young musicians and performs a full range of traditional and contemporary orchestral works. In 2026, the orchestra will perform selections to include: Dvorak's Symphony No. 9 "New World", Vaughn Williams' Folk Song Suite, Sibelius' Finlandia, and more.



**Dr. Keith Dodson**

### 2026 International Youth Symphony Orchestra Director

Dr. Keith Dodson is currently Director of Orchestral Activities and Assistant Professor of Conducting at Central Michigan University in Mount Pleasant, Michigan. Dr. Dodson completed his PhD in Music Education with an emphasis in Orchestral Conducting at the Florida State University College of Music. Since the summer of 2021, Dr. Dodson has served on the conducting faculty at the Blue Lake Fine Arts Camp in Twin Lake, Michigan. He has conducted the Vander Linde Band (2021), Symphony Orchestra (2022-2024) and the Masterworks Orchestra (2025). In the fall of 2025, Dr. Dodson will conduct the world premiere of a new full orchestral work by renowned composer Kirt Mosier entitled LIFT OFF, which will take place at Central Michigan University with Houston-based Summer Creek High School and their conductor David Irish. Prior to his career in higher education, he held secondary instrumental positions at Space Coast Junior/Senior High School and Matanzas High School in Central Florida. At Central Michigan University, Dr. Dodson serves as Music Director of the Central Michigan University Symphony Orchestra. This flagship ensemble hosts top performing undergraduate and graduate music majors, in addition to other, non-music major students at CMU. A passionate educator, Dr. Dodson serves as co-director of the Michigan American String Teachers Association chapter at Central Michigan University, alongside Dr. Jamie Fiste, where they mentor future string music educators. As an active clinician, Dr. Dodson has conducted middle school and high school honor orchestras in Florida, Kansas, Michigan, Missouri, and Ohio, and also led clinics for numerous middle and high school bands and orchestras in Florida, Kansas, Michigan, Missouri, Nevada, and Texas. Notably, Dr. Dodson served as a guest conductor for the Detroit Symphony Youth Orchestra Honors String Day in the spring of 2025, will conduct the Blue Lake Fine Arts Camp International Youth Symphony Orchestra in summer of 2026, and will serve as the Florida 9-10 All State Concert Orchestra Conductor in the spring of 2027.