



Musician Handbook

2017/18 CONCERT SEASON
current as of June 27, 2017

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Mo-Ranch, 2016

Welcome to YOSA!

Congratulations on being a YOSA musician for the 2017/18 season! You should be very proud of your accomplishment. YOSA provides professionally led training for serious young musicians from San Antonio and surrounding areas. Our orchestras aspire to the highest artistic standards. Music selected for study and performance includes traditional orchestral literature as well as educational music intended to teach specific skills required for advancement.

Organizations like YOSA are found in every major city in the United States and around the world. We bring together professional musicians, educators, and arts supporters to provide talented young musicians with the opportunity to study and perform orchestral music. By working together as an orchestra, you will enhance your growth as a musician and create memorable performances for both you and your audiences. We welcome you to YOSA and look forward to making music with you.

Purpose of this Handbook

The mission of Youth Orchestras of San Antonio, the premier orchestral experience for youth citywide, is to enhance education, enrich the community, and transform lives by pursuing excellence in classical music in a stimulating, nurturing, and fun environment that is equally accessible to all youth.

The information in this handbook is designed to make clear the policies and procedures relating to all YOSA activities. The musicians of YOSA maintain a personal standard of conduct that is a credit to themselves, their parents, schools, and communities. Musicians are expected to contribute to the wholesome atmosphere of devoted work and serious performance that distinguishes this organization. Musicians are expected to maintain participation in the music program (orchestral or band) at their school if one is available.

YOSA Programs

Orchestras

YOSA Philharmonic

Troy Peters, Music Director

YOSA's most advanced orchestra is comprised of the very best young musicians in the San Antonio area. The YOSA Philharmonic performs professional-level repertoire in premier venues, collaborating regularly with internationally renowned soloists and composers.

YOSA Symphonic Winds

Andy Post, Conductor

YOSA Symphonic Winds brings together top young musicians for high-level performances of advanced wind ensemble repertoire.

YOSA Symphony

Kenneth Freudigman, Conductor

Musicians in the YOSA Symphony master a variety of advanced orchestral skills by performing unabridged pieces from the standard repertoire for full orchestra.

YOSA Flute Choir

Dr. Kristin Hayes, Conductor

The YOSA Flute Choir benefits middle school and high school flutists as they develop the solo and chamber music skills necessary for success as an orchestral player.

YOSA Concertino Strings

Kenneth Freudigman, Conductor

The most advanced of YOSA's five string orchestras offers the opportunity to perform great masterpieces of string repertoire, from the Baroque era to today.

YOSA Repertory Strings

Karen George, Conductor

YOSA's newest string orchestra introduces musicians to a variety of bowing techniques and historical styles, while also developing more advanced control of rubato, phrasing, and expression.

YOSA Sinfonietta Strings

Brenda Johnson, Conductor

This string orchestra gives emerging talent the opportunity to hone orchestral skills, focusing on techniques that will support future success in high school-level opportunities.

YOSA Capriccio Strings
Martin Sanchez, Conductor

Musicians in this string orchestra develop a higher level of stylistic refinement and expressive detail while playing a variety of repertoire in a nurturing and fun environment.

YOSA Summer Symphony Camp

Established in 1985, the YOSA Summer Symphony Camp is the only day camp of its kind in South Texas. The two-week camp is usually held on the campus of Saint Mary's Hall and provides intensive instruction in orchestral studies, music theory, composition, chamber music, and a number of music electives. This is an excellent opportunity for young musicians to strengthen their musical skills during the summer.

2018 Camp Dates TBD

YOSA Prelude Strings
Jacobi Caldwell, Conductor

YOSA's entry-level orchestra offers your musicians a chance to enjoy playing in an orchestra with a full complement of string instruments playing independent parts.



YOSA MÀS

YOSA is committed to working with public and private schools throughout Greater San Antonio. Some school partnerships involve classroom and school visits by YOSA staff. YOSA's most comprehensive school partnerships are with the Roosevelt High School Compact in NEISD and select schools in EISD.

The seven schools of the Roosevelt Compact, a project involving NEISD's Roosevelt High School and the two middle schools and four elementary schools that feed Roosevelt High is funded by Rackspace. This school partnership includes extensive interaction between YOSA staff, teachers, and young musicians.

The Edgewood Independent School District partnership includes an after-school program at one elementary school. For information about YOSA MÀS:Music At School, please contact the YOSA office at (210) 737-0097.

Rehearsal Locations & Times

YOSA Prelude Strings: Sundays, 2-3 p.m.
YOSA Capriccio Strings: Sundays, 4:30-6 p.m.
YOSA Sinfonietta Strings: Sundays, 2-4 p.m.
YOSA Repertory Strings: Sundays, 3:30-5:30 p.m.
Location: University of the Incarnate Word Music Building
4301 Broadway St., San Antonio, TX 78209

YOSA Concertino Strings: Tuesdays, 6:30-8:45 p.m.
YOSA Flute Choir: Tuesdays, 7-8:30 p.m.
Location: St. David's Episcopal Church
1300 Wiltshire Ave., San Antonio, TX 78209

YOSA Symphony: Sundays 6-8:30 p.m.
YOSA Symphonic Winds: Sundays 6-8:30 p.m.
YOSA Philharmonic: Sundays 2-5 p.m.
Location: UTSA Main Campus (1604)
Arts Building, 2nd floor



Parking

UTSA Main Campus (1604): All musicians and parents should park in the unmarked spots in Bauerle Lot 1. Drop off at the upper lot is acceptable and recommended. All musicians must be picked up in Bauerle Lot 1 or in Bauerle Lot 2 behind Main Building (MB). 24-hour reserved parking should not to be used. Cars may be ticketed or towed by UTSA at the owner's expense.

University of the Incarnate Word Campus: Parking is available in the lots outside the music building near the corner of Broadway St. and Hildebrand Ave.

St. David's Episcopal Church: Parking is available in church lots and along any neighboring streets.

Communication

The weekly Rehearsal Information email contains pertinent information for all YOSA musicians and parents. If you do not have an email account, we ask that you create an account at one of the many free email providers (Gmail, Yahoo, Hotmail, etc.). If you are not signed up to receive YOSA email, please call the YOSA office or email registration@yosa.org and provide us with your name, email address, and orchestra. It is each musician's responsibility to view the weekly Rehearsal Information email to remain informed.

On occasion, some musicians of the orchestra may not be needed for a particular piece or movement. Check the weekly Rehearsal Information email to view the schedule for each week. YOSA also provides information on our social network sites including Facebook and Twitter. Follow us on these sites to stay informed.

Artistic Standards

Each musician is expected to come to rehearsal with his or her part well prepared. Orchestra rehearsals will be used to work on skills that individual musicians cannot master on their own, such as balance, section intonation, and ensemble phrasing. As a rule of thumb, know all of your music by the fourth week of rehearsals. It is the musician's/parent's responsibility to ensure that each musician is taking the proper action to be prepared for the week's rehearsal to the best of the musician's ability. Private lessons are strongly encouraged. If you learn the notes and rhythms on your own, rehearsals will be more productive and enjoyable.

Musicians must bring a pencil to each rehearsal to insert conductor instructions into their music. Musicians are encouraged to acquire and listen to professional orchestra recordings of the pieces being performed, particularly for those in the upper-level orchestras. Ask your conductor or YOSA staff if you would like to know more about acquiring a recording. Professional performances can often be accessed for free at youtube.com or by downloading the free music-streaming service *Spotify*.

Music

Musicians are responsible for bringing all their music to every rehearsal and concert. Musicians are given a music folder and will be assessed a \$10 fee to replace any missing folder. All musicians will receive one copy of each piece of music. It is the musician's responsibility to store all music in the folder provided by YOSA.

Music Distribution

New music will be distributed for each of the three concert cycles. Each musician will only receive one copy of each piece of music. It is his/her responsibility to bring that music to each rehearsal.

Music Replacement

If a musician loses music and needs another copy, the musician must notify YOSA by noon on the Friday before the rehearsal. A new copy will be provided at the next rehearsal for a fee of \$5. Please submit all requests to registration@yosa.org.

If a musician does not have music with him/her at rehearsal, he/she will be asked to sign out any missing parts. If the music is not returned at the end of rehearsal, the musician will be charged a \$5 replacement fee.

YOSA's efforts to avoid printing music that isn't needed saves money and resources. This means that YOSA will not have stacks of extra music waiting at each rehearsal. If you need a replacement copy of music, you must provide advance notification.

String players will always read from the outside player's music in rehearsal. This is to ensure consistency in markings. Inside players should have their parts available at every rehearsal to add markings to their own practice music.

Concert Dress

At all performances and events, orchestra members are expected to wear clean, pressed garments, and black shoes. Distracting accessories and fragrances are not permitted. All black clothing should be solid black without pattern or ornament.

YOSA Prelude Strings, Capriccio Strings, Sinfonietta Strings, Repertory Strings, Concertino Strings, Flute Choir

Ladies

Floor-length black dress, skirt, or pants
Black blouse with modest neckline
(no spaghetti straps, strapless, or bare shoulders)
Black hosiery
Black closed-toe shoes, no sandals

Gentlemen

Black bow tie
Long-sleeved white dress shirt
Black dress pants with black belt
Black socks and black dress shoes

YOSA Philharmonic, Symphonic Winds, and Symphony

Ladies

Floor-length black dress, skirt, or pants
Black blouse with modest neckline
(no spaghetti straps, strapless, or bare shoulders)
Black hosiery
Black closed-toe shoes, no sandals

Gentlemen

Black bow tie
Long-sleeved white dress shirt
Black tuxedo
Black socks and black dress shoes

All Groups

Outdoor Concert Dress (unless otherwise noted)

Black pants or floor-length skirt
Red YOSA T-shirt
Black socks and black shoes



Attendance Policy

Consistent attendance at rehearsals is crucial to the success and musical growth of YOSA. Any absence from an ensemble affects the ability of other musicians of the orchestra to fully prepare for the concert performance. For this reason, YOSA documents all rehearsal absences equally, rather than making a distinction between excused and unexcused absences. To ensure that you are counted as present, please always initial the sign-in sheet prior to the start of rehearsal. The sign-in sheet is located at the entrance of the rehearsal room or at the designated sign-in table.

Musicians are granted up to two (2) absences from rehearsal in each session. A session is defined as the period of rehearsals leading up to each major concert. Dates for each session are listed below.

YOSA Philharmonic Sessions

- (A) August 18, 2017 to November 5, 2017
- (B) November 12, 2017 to January 28, 2018
- (C) February 4, 2018 to May 20, 2018

YOSA Symphony, Symphonic Winds

- (A) August 18, 2017 to November 12, 2017
- (B) November 19, 2017 to February 11, 2018
- (C) February 18, 2018 to May 20, 2018

YOSA Repertory Strings, Sinfonietta Strings, Capriccio Strings, & Prelude Strings

- (A) August 26, 2017 to November 12, 2017
- (B) November 19, 2017 to February 3, 2018
- (C) February 11, 2018 to May 20, 2018

YOSA Concertino Strings & Flute Choir

- (A) August 26, 2017 to November 12, 2017
- (B) November 19, 2017 to February 3, 2018
- (C) February 11, 2018 to May 20, 2018

Dress Rehearsals and Concerts

Dress rehearsals and concerts are mandatory. Any musician who misses a dress rehearsal may not be allowed to play in that concert, at the discretion of the conductor. Missing a concert is grounds for dismissal. It is the musician's and parent's responsibility to ensure that the YOSA staff are informed about absences as early as possible via an Absence Notification Form available on the YOSA website in the *Musician's Area*.

We prefer you to use your absences for occurrences over which the musician or family has no option of exercising control, such as:

- Illness – Requires a phone call and message to YOSA office at (210) 737-0097
- Death in the family
- A mandatory school event
- College visit/audition
- Any mandatory activity required by the school music program

We prefer you do NOT use your absences for occurrences over which the musician or family has control, such as:

- Family vacations
- Extracurricular school activities other than school music events (see Operations Director about unique circumstances)
- Studying for exams or preparing papers or projects
- Non-school performances (e.g., gigs, other orchestras, chamber groups)

To report an absence you must complete and submit an online Absence Notification Form at least one week prior to the absence. Any unforeseen absence must be followed with a completed Absence Notification Form submission. Forms are available at www.yosa.org under the *Musician's Area*. Please refrain from calling YOSA staff on their personal phones to report an unplanned absence.

Excessive Absences

Parents will be notified when a musician has missed the maximum number of rehearsals in one session. This will serve as an official warning that the maximum number of absences has been reached and should the musician miss any more rehearsals in that session, the musician may not be permitted to perform in the concert. Occurrences of excessive absences and chronic tardiness will be assessed by the Music Director, Orchestra Conductor, and YOSA Staff, and may result in the dismissal of a musician.

Tardiness

Rehearsals begin promptly at the designated times with tuning of the orchestra. Musicians should plan to arrive at least 15 minutes before the published start time to allow ample time to park, warm up, and ensure they are ready for rehearsal. Late arrival or leaving early will be recorded as a 1/2 absence. Foreseeable late arrivals/early departures must be documented on an Absence Notification Form and submitted in advance, or a musician will be charged a full absence. If a musician arrives at rehearsal late, they must sign-in on the late sign-in sheet. Excessive tardiness may result in the dismissal of a musician at the discretion of the Music Director, Orchestra Conductor, and YOSA Staff.

Early Departure

Planned early departures should be requested using an Absence Notification Form which is available online. Before leaving rehearsal, musicians must sign out by notifying a YOSA staff member. Leaving rehearsal early without any notification may result in the dismissal of the musician.

YOSA Musician Conduct

All musicians are expected to adhere to the following policies:

1. No food, drink, gum, or other distracting items allowed inside the rehearsal room.
2. Cellular phones should be turned off and stored. No cell phone use is permitted during rehearsal times. If a musician does not play during a movement, he/she must exit the rehearsal room to use a cell phone. Any musician caught using a cell phone during rehearsal will have the phone confiscated until the end of rehearsal. Musicians who have violated the cell phone policy may be asked to check their phone with staff or volunteers at the start of each rehearsal. Phone use is permissible during the break.
3. Musicians will be given a break approximately half-way through the rehearsal. This is the appropriate time to use the restroom, not during rehearsal.
4. Listen to instructions from your conductor and any YOSA staff member. Do not talk or pack-up while the orchestra is being addressed by your conductor or any other person.
5. Place all trash in an appropriate place. Do not leave any garbage on the floor.
6. The use of alcohol or tobacco is strictly prohibited and will result in immediate dismissal from YOSA.

Dismissal

The decision to dismiss a musician from the orchestra is only made after consultation with the musician and parent and is made jointly by the Music Director, Operations Director, and Executive Director.

Musicians may be dismissed for the following reasons:

- Disruptive behavior
- Harassment
- Theft
- Assault
- Drug or alcohol possession or use
- Excessive absences or tardiness
- Dress rehearsal absence
- Concert absence

Musicians demonstrating disruptive behavior or excessive absences and tardiness will usually receive an official warning and be given reasonable time to improve behavior. The conductor retains the authority to warrant a dismissal from a single rehearsal without warning.

The YOSA office may inform, in writing, the musician's private instrumental teacher, school teacher, and parents the reasons for dismissal. Any musician who leaves the orchestra prematurely due to failure to comply with YOSA regulations will not be compensated for any financial contributions or expenses associated with YOSA.

YOSA Calendar

The YOSA calendar of rehearsals, concerts, and events will be available, with updates, on the website, and at YOSA rehearsals. Every effort is made to align the YOSA calendar with outside activities such as public holidays, TMEA region and state activities, UIL competition dates, and published school district events. YOSA will not make a required change to a scheduled rehearsal or concert without giving musicians four weeks prior written notice via the weekly Rehearsal Information email.

A link to your orchestra's calendar is included with your Placement Email and in the Musician's Area of the YOSA website. Please check the online calendar regularly for any changes or updates to the printed schedule.

Community Service

Musicians will occasionally be presented with opportunities to perform at non-YOSA events. This type of performance is not required, but participating musicians may have their service recorded and reported to their school or any other organization for which the musician is required to complete community service. It is also not uncommon for YOSA musicians to be asked to perform at paying performances. Only the most prepared musicians will be offered these opportunities.

In addition to performing opportunities, we also invite you to become a YOSA Ambassador to help YOSA as you earn Community Service Hours.

Musicians may be YOSA Ambassadors to:

- Assist the YOSA staff at rehearsals and concerts
- Help YOSA staff at receptions and special events
- Sell YOSA merchandise at concerts and special events
- Work in the YOSA office



Interested? Contact volunteer@yosa.org or talk to any YOSA staff at rehearsal to learn more.

Summary of Expectations

Musicians are expected to

- Attend all rehearsals, sectionals, and concerts
- Be fully prepared for rehearsals and concerts
- Respect their colleagues
- Maintain good standing in their school music programs
- Be respectful of decisions regarding chair placement and auditions
- Exhibit professional conduct
- Remain informed about rehearsal schedules and announcements by reading the YOSA weekly email
- Participate in YOSA social events and fundraisers

Parents are expected to

- Help musicians fulfill their musical responsibilities by encouraging at-home practice, 100% attendance, and prompt arrival to rehearsals and concerts
- Ensure their musician receives regular adequate private instruction on his/her instrument
- Support their musician's school music activities
- Ensure their musician has access to an email account that is used to read the YOSA weekly Rehearsal Information email
- Help provide snacks for rehearsals. YOSA Operations staff will let parents know when snacks are needed.
- Attend your young musician's concerts whenever possible.
- Volunteer to assist YOSA during rehearsals and at special events as they fit the family schedule.

Concert etiquette

During performances, we ask that audience members adhere to the following concert etiquette. Thank you for your cooperation.

- No flash photography during the concert
- Wait for a break in the music before being seated or leaving your seat
- Avoid talking during the performance
- Take children in need of attention to the lobby
- Silence all phones and other electronic noise making devices

Seating

The goals of seating assignments are to:

- Improve ensemble playing of each section and overall standard of the orchestra
- Improve the overall educational experience for all members of the orchestra
- Enhance morale within the orchestra
- Provide extra responsibility for the most advanced musicians in the orchestra
- Define roles and responsibilities for principal players

General Information on Seating Auditions

Seating Auditions are used only to help determine musicians' seating arrangements within the orchestra. The conductor must approve all assignments. Regardless of the circumstances, any musician who is not present at seating auditions will automatically be placed by the conductor in a seat of his/her choosing.

YOSA will assign musicians to their positions based on a multitude of factors including preparedness, performance, leadership ability, and the need to maintain a well-balanced orchestra. It should be understood that all principal chairs require players who demonstrate exceptional musical leadership. Any musician not fulfilling basic expectations can be removed from his/her seat at any time at the conductor's discretion. These expectations can be discussed with the conductor after seating has been assigned.

String Sections

Seating will be determined by annual orchestra auditions and one seating audition in October. Please consult your orchestra's online calendar in the *Musician's Area* of yosa.org. The results of the October seating audition will go into effect at the beginning of the next concert cycle. Audition results will be used to assign seating in a manner that will maximize the educational effectiveness of the orchestra and its ensemble playing.

Woodwind and Brass Sections

Wind and brass parts for each session will be assigned by the conductor, based the annual orchestra auditions, October seating auditions, and on performance and preparedness in rehearsals. Players will rotate at the discretion of the conductor, who may also redistribute parts in cases where musicians are not meeting expectations.

Percussion

Percussion assignments are made by the conductor with the intent of distributing the parts as evenly as possible over the course of the entire season. Each player's ability level may come into consideration when deciding part assignments.

Percussionists should arrive at rehearsal in plenty of time to set up the instruments. All percussionists are expected to assist the YOSA staff with loading and unloading instruments before and after rehearsals and concerts.



Tuition & Fees

YOSA is generously funded by a wide variety of government agencies, foundations, and private donors. This, however, only pays for two-thirds of our operating expenses. Charging tuition is necessary for YOSA to provide its many services.

Payment of Tuition

There are two options for payment of tuition.

1. Pay the tuition balance in full before close of business on Friday, July 21, 2017 to receive a 5% discount.
2. Pay the \$125 deposit* before the end of business Friday, July 21, 2017 and register for a tuition payment plan. Plans include 8 monthly minimum payments (September-April) or 2 bi-annual payments (September and January). Paying in advance of monthly due dates is acceptable (i.e., Making a payment of \$300 in July will cover the deposit* and several months of tuition).

Tuition Refund Policy

If the musician leaves YOSA before the end of the season, you must submit a completed Refund Request Form to receive a refund. Once YOSA has been notified of early withdrawal from the program, you will receive a Refund Request Form via email. If the musician is dismissed from YOSA for a violation of YOSA's conduct and expectation policies as outlined in the Musician's Handbook, all payments received are non-refundable.

The eligible refund will be determined by taking the tuition paid to date minus 1) the \$125 deposit*, 2) published monthly tuition (depending on which orchestra the musician has participated in), 3) \$30 administration fee, 4) the 5% early payment discount (if applicable), and 5) the minimum Mo-Ranch Weekend tuition fee** (if applicable).

**All deposits are non-refundable.*

***If the musician attends any part of the Mo-Ranch Weekend, the minimum tuition charge is \$225.*

2017/18 ORCHESTRAS

\$125 deposit* for all ensembles (due before July 21, 2017)		
Prelude Strings	Capriccio Strings	Sinfonietta Strings
\$46	\$49	\$54
Monthly Payments		
Repertory Strings	Concertino Strings	Flute Choir
\$57	\$59	\$49
Symphony**	Symphonic Winds**	Philharmonic**
\$63	\$63	\$74
September through April (8 monthly payments)		

Payments should be made by the deadlines below to YOSA via MasterCard, VISA, American Express, Discover, check, money order, or cash.

Payment due dates:

- | | |
|----------------------|---------------------|
| 1. September 1, 2017 | 5. January 5, 2017 |
| 2. October 6, 2017 | 6. February 2, 2017 |
| 3. November 3, 2017 | 7. March 2, 2017 |
| 4. December 1, 2017 | 8. April 6, 2017 |

**All deposits are non-refundable.*

***If the musician attends any part of the Mo-Ranch Weekend, the minimum tuition charge is \$225.*

How to make a payment:

- Pay online by visiting www.yosa.org
- Over the phone by calling (210) 737-0097, Monday-Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.
- Send a check to:
YOSA
106 Auditorium Circle, Suite 130
San Antonio, TX 78205

Failure to Pay

Any musician who fails to pay tuition will be notified and YOSA music will be taken away or withheld if no action is made to arrange payments.

Tuition Assistance

YOSA's goal is to ensure that young musicians are not turned away due to financial circumstance and that assistance is provided to those in need. Financial assistance applications are available on the YOSA website and a link is included in the Audition Results Email. The deadline for the 2017/17 Season tuition assistance application is July 14, 2017. Any remaining balance due after an award is granted will be put on an eight-month payment plan of equal installments.

Some level of tuition assistance may be awarded to those applying with household incomes under \$65,000. For household incomes above \$65,000, assistance may be provided but highly subject to individual circumstances.

Fundraising

While fundraising is a principal activity of the Board of Directors, musicians and parents can be instrumental in securing support for the organization.

We encourage parents to be involved in YOSA fundraising activities and to contribute time, talents, or resources.

YOSA has several major fundraising events for which we look for parent volunteers and/or financial support either through your participation, donor or volunteer, or by inviting your friends and neighbors!

YOSA Standing Ovation Luncheon, September 20, 2017

YOSA Live benefit concert, Hotel California Live, March 12, 2018

Please contact Mary Yearwood, Development Director, at (210) 737-0097 or myearwood@yosa.org if you would like to talk about your role in YOSA fundraising.

Staff Faculty

Troy Peters, Music Director



Troy Peters has been Music Director of YOSA (Youth Orchestras of San Antonio) since 2009. He has guest conducted many orchestras, including the Oregon Symphony, San Antonio Symphony, Vermont Symphony Orchestra, and Vermont Mozart Festival. He was previously Music Director of the Vermont Youth Orchestra and Montpelier Chamber Orchestra, and conducted college orchestras at Texas State University and Middlebury College. He has also gained international attention for his orchestral collaborations with rock musicians, including Blind Pilot, Jon Anderson (of the band Yes), and Trey Anastasio (of the band Phish), with whom he worked on two albums on Elektra Records.

Peters conducted the world premiere recording of Daron Hagen's *Masquerade* with violinist Jaime Laredo, cellist Sharon Robinson, and the Vermont Symphony Orchestra, on Bridge Records. Among the other soloists with whom he has collaborated are Branford Marsalis, Midori, Edgar Meyer, and Richard Stoltzman. His work has been the subject of national media attention from *CBS Sunday Morning*, National Public Radio's *Weekend Edition, Symphony*, and *The New Yorker*. Awarded a Vermont Arts Council Citation of Merit in 2009, he has also been honored with eight ASCAP Awards for Adventurous Programming of Contemporary Music and has conducted more than three-dozen world premieres. A popular lecturer, he has presented pre-concert talks for the Philadelphia Orchestra, Carnegie Hall, Vermont Symphony Orchestra, and San Antonio Symphony.

Peters is also active as a composer, where his honors include the Charles Ives Scholarship from the American Academy of Arts and Letters and grants from Meet the Composer and the Rockefeller Foundation. He holds degrees from the Curtis Institute of Music and the University of Pennsylvania, where his primary compositional mentors were Ned Rorem and George Crumb. Born in 1969 in Greenock, Scotland (of American parents), Peters grew up in Tacoma, Washington, and lives in San Antonio with his wife and two children.

Kenneth Freudigman, YOSA Symphony and Concertino Strings Conductor

Kenneth Freudigman is Co-Founder and Artistic Director of Camerata San Antonio, Principal Cello of the San Antonio Symphony, Adjunct Professor of Cello at the University of Texas at San Antonio, former Education Director of the Cactus Pear Music Festival, and a highly-respected cello pedagogue.

Mr. Freudigman has studied cello at Interlochen Center for the Arts and Eastman School of Music. He began his orchestral and chamber music career with the Rochester Philharmonic and as a founding member of the Esterhazy Chamber Ensemble. In 1992, he joined the New World Symphony, under the direction of Michael Tilson Thomas. He has also performed with the Grand Rapids, Charleston, and Virginia Symphony Orchestras, as well as the Sarasota Opera and the Mexico City Philharmonic.



Mr. Freudigman can be heard in recordings on the Argo, Bridge, and Summit record labels, featured with Renee Fleming and the New World Symphony Orchestra performing *Bachianas Brasileiras* by Heitor Villa-Lobos on BMG Classics, and on Camerata San Antonio's Grammy-nominated premiere CD, *Salon Buenos Aires: Music of Miguel Del Aguila*.

Andy Post, YOSA Symphonic Winds Conductor

Andy Post directed bands at Wood, Jackson, and Lopez middle schools in North East ISD and is an active consultant, clinician, and adjudicator. He has earned Teacher of the Year, Trinity Prize Distinguished Educator Award for NEISD, Who's Who of American Teachers, PTA Lifetime Award, and was nominated for Disney National Teacher of the Year.

His ensembles consistently earn Sweepstakes Awards at UIL and have been recognized at the Region, Area, and State level by Texas Music Educators Association (TMEA) and nationally by Choice Music National Wind Band Competition.



Karen George, YOSA Repertory Strings Conductor

Karen George is the orchestra director at Johnson High School in San Antonio. Mrs. George studied violin at the University of Southern Mississippi with Stephen Redfield where she earned bachelor degrees in both Violin Performance and Music Education. She then attended University of Texas at Austin where she studied violin under Vincent Frittelli and received a Masters in Music Education with a minor in conducting. Mrs. George has also toured with several orchestras in Europe including the American Institute for Musical Studies (AIMS) in Graz, Austria. In addition to her teaching job, she also performs in the Corpus Christi Symphony.



Mrs. George opened Johnson High School in 2008. Since then, her four orchestras have had successes at UIL with numerous Sweepstakes trophies. The Johnson orchestras have traveled to Europe and Hawaii to perform in various venues. Johnson full orchestra has made it to the finals for Honor Orchestra competition at TMEA three times and they made the finals for string in 2013. Recently, the Johnson Varsity orchestra was invited to perform at Midwest in Chicago this December. Mrs. George is married, has two beautiful daughters and a whippet.

Brenda Johnson, YOSA Sinfonietta Strings Conductor

Brenda Johnson is orchestra director at Hector Garcia Middle School (Northside ISD), where she opened the school as founding conductor of the Gladiator Orchestra program.

In their first year as a brand new school, the Chamber Orchestra received fourth place in the TMEA Honor Orchestra Competition. Each year, both varsity and non-varsity groups have received Sweepstakes ratings at UIL Concert/Sight-reading, and the program has grown to 200 students.

Originally from McAllen, Texas, Mrs. Johnson received her Bachelor of Music Education degree from Baylor University and a master's degree in Curriculum and Instruction from the University of North Texas. She began her teaching career with the Plano Independent School District at Haggard and Bowman Middle Schools. In 2008-2009 she received the Teacher of the Year and PTA Life Member Awards at Bowman Middle School. Mrs. Johnson is also an active clinician/adjudicator and serves as a cooperating teacher for music student teachers from the University of Texas at San Antonio.



In 2004, Mrs. Johnson was one of four teachers in Texas to receive the Majorie Keller Young Music Educator's Award from the American String Teacher Association. She has served as secretary and treasurer for TexASTA and is a member of Texas Music Educator's Association, Texas Orchestra Directors Association, Texas Music Adjudicators Association, and the American String Teacher Association with National School Orchestra Association.

Dr. Kristin Hayes, YOSA Flute Choir Conductor

In addition to serving as Director of the YOSA Flute Choir, **Dr. Kristin Hayes** currently teaches flute and music theory at St. Mary's University and Our Lady of the Lake University. She formerly held teaching positions at University of Texas San Antonio and Florida State University. During the summer, she teaches and performs at Blue Lake Fine Arts Camp and UTSA's annual Flute Camp. An active performer and clinician, Dr. Hayes has performed and presented at various festivals and conventions, including the National Flute Association Convention, MTNA National Convention, Mid-South Flute Festival, and the Florida Flute Association Convention. She has also performed and held masterclasses at various institutions throughout North and Central America, and she frequently serves as adjudicator for local, state, regional, and national competitions.



Martin Sanchez, YOSA Capriccio Strings Conductor

Martin Sanchez is the orchestra director at Ed White Middle School in the North East Independent School District. His ensembles at Ed White have earned Sweepstakes awards at UIL contest. Mr. Sanchez is from San Antonio, Texas and received his Bachelor of Music in Music Education at the University of Texas at San Antonio in the fall of 2013. Before holding the job of director at Ed White, he held the Assistant Director position for several years in the UTSA String Project, a program to help university students hone their skills in string teaching. In 2013, He accepted the Lead Teaching Artist position for the YOSA MAS Program in the Edgewood Independent School District. He has also been involved with the YOSA Summer Symphony Camp for several years. Mr. Sanchez is a member of the Texas Music Educator's Association and Texas Orchestra Directors Association.



Jacobi Caldwell, YOSA Prelude Strings Conductor



Jacobi Caldwell, conductor of YOSA Prelude Strings, earned her Bachelor of Music, String Emphasis, from the University of South Carolina. She studied conducting with David Rudge and participated in the USC Conductor's Institute. She worked with the South Carolina Philharmonic Youth Orchestra and the USC String Project. Following that, she taught in public schools, then spent years performing commercially. One of the highlights of her journey was moving to Texas and working with the Hill Country Youth Orchestra. She has gone on to teach at Kerrville ISD and Alamo Heights ISD winning UIL Sweepstakes at every competition. She has one daughter, Annalisa.

Eugene Dowdy, Resident Conductor

Eugene Dowdy conducted YOSA's Symphony Orchestra from 1984 to 1992 and was Interim Music Director in 2000.

Dr. Dowdy is an Associate Professor in the Department of Music at the University of Texas at San Antonio where he conducts the UTSA Orchestra and is the founding violinist of Rio Trio, UTSA's faculty piano trio. Dowdy is an active guest conductor of regional orchestras, festivals and contests throughout Texas and the Midwest, including nine summers on the faculty at Interlochen. Recent engagements include the Georgia and Iowa All-State Orchestras and Mexico's Camerata de Coahuila.



Dowdy is the founding director of the UTSA String Project, a nationally-recognized music teacher training program. During the spring of 2010, the project expanded to the UTSA Downtown Campus enrolling 80 elementary students in after-school string instrument classes.

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How to Reach Us

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