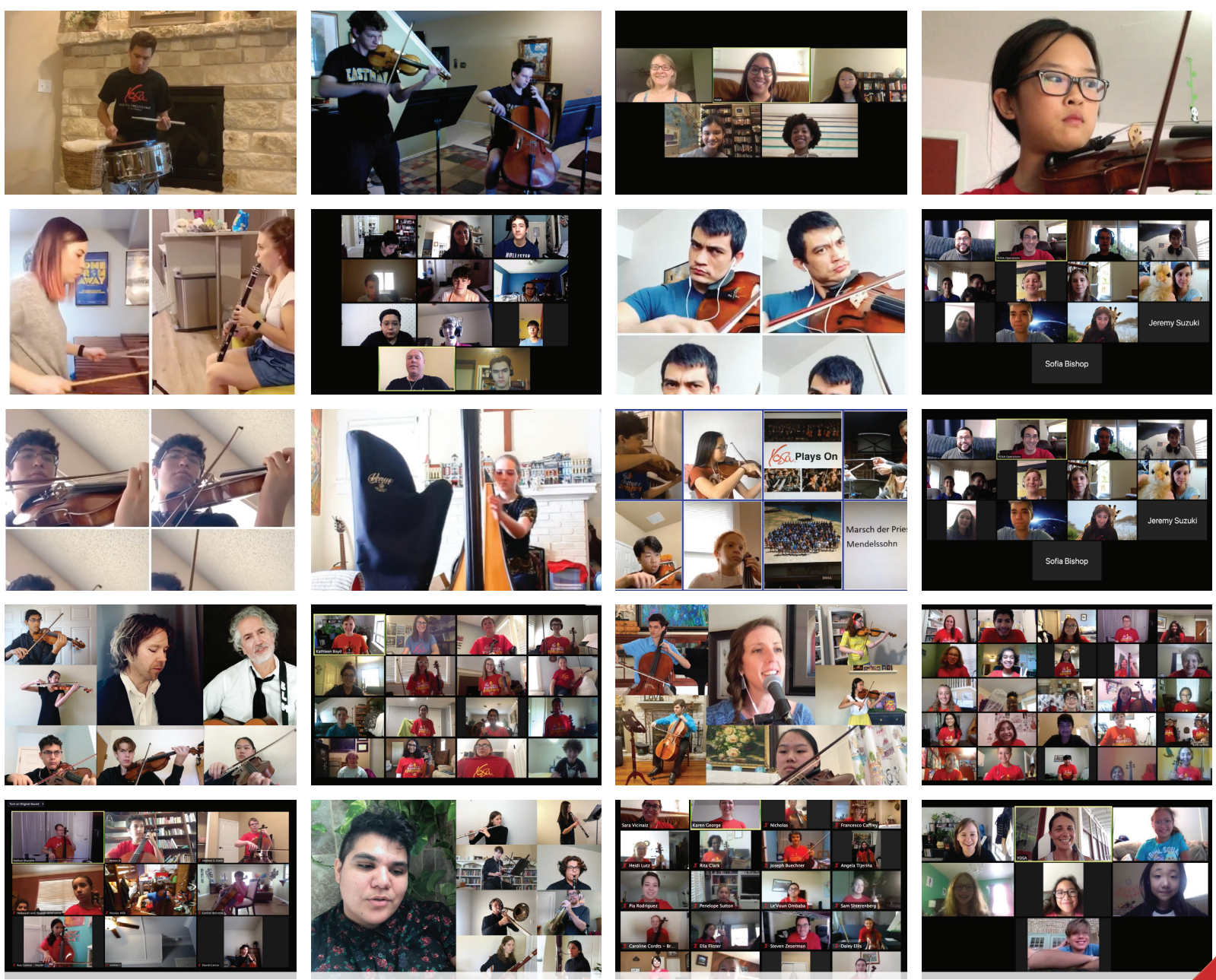


Quarter

FALL 2020

NOTE



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Every summer, I look forward to announcing YOSA's concert season. What wonderful soloists and great orchestral masterpieces will we present this year? Pulling back the curtain on our artistic plans is always a thrill.

Like everything else in the time of the COVID-19 pandemic, however, this year's announcement is very different. We do not know for sure when we will be able to gather a full orchestra together safely in person. When we can have an orchestra perform together, will we be able to accommodate an audience? All of us have been forced to become more comfortable with uncertainty, but it is no fun to face so many unknowns.

Happily, though, we know that YOSA will be making music in September. More than 440 young musicians have confirmed their intention to join 14 different YOSA groups for the 2020/21 concert season. Eight string orchestras and six smaller ensembles for woodwind, brass, and percussion players will begin rehearsals this fall. When public health conditions and local school district guidance allow, we will offer in-person rehearsals—with families given the option to participate online instead, if they would prefer. And when we cannot meet in person, all groups will still learn and make music together via Zoom every Sunday.

On December 19 & 20, we will present a series of performances featuring all 14 YOSA groups at the Tobin Center for the Performing Arts. We hope to welcome a live audience, but we could also livestream these performances from the Tobin stage via YouTube. And if we are not able to perform in person, we will release recorded or virtual performances instead.

We are hopeful that all our groups will be able to perform before an in-person audience in May 2021. Mark your calendars now for the YOSA Philharmonic's spring Zachry Series concert on May 23, 2021 at the Tobin Center. Anthony McGill, principal clarinetist of the New York Philharmonic, will be our guest soloist, thanks to generous support from the Russell Hill Rogers Fund for the Arts.

While we do not know for sure what the next several months will hold, we are excited to start rehearsals and make music together. Follow YOSA on Facebook, Instagram, or Twitter, and visit our website at yosa.org to stay up to date on our plans as they develop. I am confident that we will have another great year of music at YOSA!

Troy Peters, YOSA Music Director



Anthony McGill
photo courtesy of David Finlayson





The ways we live, work, and gather have changed due to the global health pandemic. The 2020/21 YOSA season will be unlike any other in our 70-year history, yet we are determined to continue as a home for San Antonio's most enthusiastic young musicians to learn and create great music together.

After months of thoughtful planning, we will launch the 2020/21 season in September with a flexible strategy that allows YOSA to continue our mission while prioritizing the safety of our young musicians, teachers, audience members, and community.

It is because of amazing donors (like you) that YOSA is able to serve San Antonio. Through the last several months, your support ensured that young musicians had access to online resources, musical inspiration, and opportunities to collaborate, learn, and perform. This season, more than ever, we need your help to change kids' lives through music. Your support will allow YOSA to:

- Implement a flexible season strategy that provides meaningful and safe music instruction—both virtual and in person.
- Increase need-based tuition assistance for families who are experiencing economic hardships.
- Continue efforts to advance social equity in music education, through programs like the YOSA Rising Star Fellows and the YOSA Invitational.
- Hire San Antonio's finest professional musicians to teach YOSA musicians as conductors, coaches, mentors, and private instructors.

YOSA is determined to meet the challenge that the pandemic and economy has presented, and you can help. By participating in this fund drive to help kick off 2020/21 YOSA season, you can ensure that YOSA musicians make music together, that professional musicians can teach a generation of young musicians, and that our community's most vulnerable families do not miss out on the YOSA experience.

There are many ways to help, but here are three easy options:

Donate Now: music.yosa.org/donate

Make a Pledge: music.yosa.org/pledge

Sign Up for Monthly Donations: music.yosa.org/monthlygiving

Together, we can continue to change kids' lives through music.

Brandon Henson
Executive Director

Troy Peters
Music Director

Summer Recap

The summer was filled with exciting performances, innovative collaborations, and insightful conversations as YOSA played on with a variety of programs! You can relive these musical moments by watching the complete recordings available on the YOSA YouTube channel.

YOSA Live Chats

YOSA Music Director Troy Peters hosted ten YOSA Live Chats this summer with luminaries of classical music, including composers, conductors, and performers from around the world. The conversations were broadcast live on the YOSA YouTube channel. Viewers were able to be a part of the chat by posting their questions and comments during the stream. Guests shared their unique journeys that brought them to their careers in music. They also offered valuable insight and advice for the young musicians tuning in. Live Chat guests included Pulitzer Prize-winning composer Jennifer Higdon, conductor Migeul Harth-Bedoya, Grammy-nominated flutist Christine Lamprea, Kenji Bunch, Akiko Fujimoto, Tracy Silverman, Brian Santero, André Raphael, Joshua Smith, and Angélica Negrón.



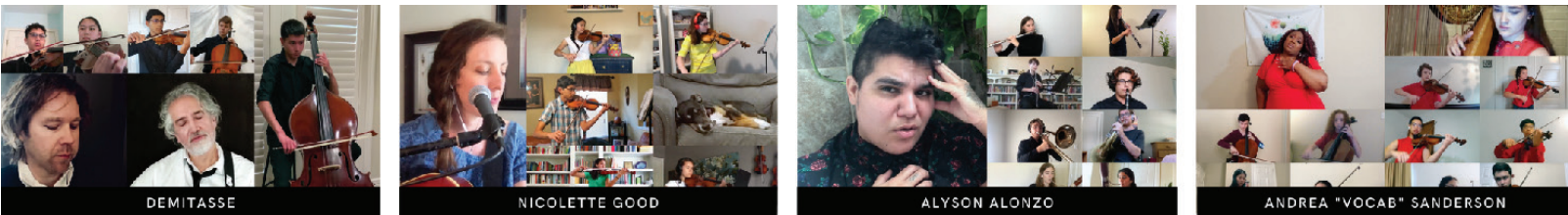
YOSA Concert Playbacks

YOSA took a trip down memory lane this summer with YOSA Concert Playbacks. For the first time ever, three past YOSA concerts were broadcast live on the YOSA Facebook page. Concerts included *New World Landscapes* from the 2018/2019 season, *At the Movies* with the San Antonio Chamber Choir from the 2019/20 movie season, and *Purple Rain Live* from the 2017/18 season. *New World Landscapes* also included a special interview with visual artist Adrian Wyard, and *At the Movies* included a discussion with San Antonio Chamber Choir Artistic Director Rick Bjella. During the Facebook stream, viewers were able to react and comment on the concert streams in real time and send their virtual applause with reactions and emojis.



YOSA presents San Antonio Sounds

YOSA presents San Antonio Sounds is a series of virtual performance collaborations with YOSA and local San Antonio artists in a wide variety of musical styles. YOSA Music Director Troy Peters worked with the guest artists to arrange an orchestral accompaniment to one of their original songs. After YOSA musicians and the guest artists record their parts individually, they are edited together into a virtual performance video. Performance collaborations premiered throughout the summer with **Demitasse**, **Nicolette Good**, **Alyson Alonzo**, and San Antonio Poet Laureate **Andrea "Vocab" Sanderson**.



YOSA Virtual Summer Symphony Camp

YOSA Summer Symphony Camp offered a week-long virtual session with unique opportunities for orchestral studies and alternative musical styles. Campers honed their skills, met new friends, and performed exciting music in virtual rehearsals and classes.

Summer Symphony Camp consisted of three orchestras: Brahms Orchestra, Haydn Orchestra, and Orchestra X. Campers participated in daily instrumental instruction with their orchestra conductor and sectional coaches. Campers also participated in an elective class, selecting a session in music theory, music appreciation, or conducting.

Camp concluded with a virtual performance of unique proportions. On the final day of camp, musicians recorded their solo performance of their orchestra's music and submitted the video to be included in the final virtual orchestra video.

Meeting via Zoom was certainly a unique experience for campers, and the YOSA Summer Symphony Camp team made the week fun, exciting, and engaging. Each day, there was a camp-wide theme to participate in. From crazy hat day to bring your pet to rehearsal day, the virtual setting offered new opportunities to take the place of in-person activities. Campers were still able to connect with each other and make music together from miles away.

Visit the YOSA YouTube channel for full performances and recordings of our summer events.



Musician Spotlight: David Escamilla



David Escamilla
Violin, YOSA Sinfonietta Strings

What was your favorite part of YOSA Virtual Summer Symphony Camp?

My favorite part of YOSA Summer Symphony Camp was having the opportunity to learn conducting and playing different genres during my Orchestra X rehearsal. It was fun to record my performances and work towards making the songs sound beautiful.

What was your best memory of YOSA Live Chats this summer?

My best memory of YOSA Live Chats was getting to know André Raphael. He has a passion for conducting and is a very inspirational person. I am grateful I had the opportunity to chat with him.

How has music helped you during the COVID-19 pandemic?

Music has helped me stay calm during these tough times. Practicing my music daily has helped me keep a positive attitude.

What are you most excited about this season with YOSA?

I'm excited about getting to play new music and interacting with other musicians. I look forward to another eventful YOSA season.

Donors and Friends

YOSA appreciates the generosity of the many individuals, corporations, and foundations that believe in the transformative power of music. **Thank you to the donors below whose gift was received between April 1, 2020 and August 1, 2020. You have changed kids' lives through music!**

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September 10, 2020

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yosa.org/biggive

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OVATION
WEEK**
OCT 19-23, 2020

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Event proceeds support YOSA
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Learn more at yosa.org/ovation