



Quarter

SPRING 2021

NOTE

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From the Podium

As we left the stage after YOSA's Viva Selena concert at the Tobin Center for the Performing Arts on March 9, 2020, none of us had any idea that it would be as very long time before we would return. By the following weekend, however, we had canceled rehearsals due to the COVID-19 pandemic and entered what would become six months without in-person musicmaking. We happily resumed rehearsing together in September 2020, but local public health conditions kept us from presenting concerts.

You can imagine, then, that it was a huge thrill for YOSA to present its first live concert on Sunday evening, March 28. The YOSA Spring Quintet Showcase featured two wind quintets and one brass quintet, comprising 15 of our most advanced young musicians. Before a small but enthusiastic audience of friends and family at Laurel Heights United Methodist Church, these groups beautifully performed a spirited and engaging program, which was also livestreamed via YOSA's YouTube and social media channels. I can't overstate what a joy it was! If you missed it, consider visiting music.yosa.org/youtube to enjoy the video.



YOSA Spring Quintet Showcase

YOSA ended up going just over a year between Viva Selena and the Spring Quintet Showcase—but we're happy to say that May 2021 will bring even more public concerts. On Sunday, May 9, five of our string orchestras will perform in two City Series concerts at Trinity Baptist Church. On Sunday, May 16, the YOSA Flute Choir, Percussion Ensemble, Symphony, and Wind Ensemble will perform in two more City Series concerts at the Tobin Center.

Finally, on Sunday evening, May 23, the YOSA Philharmonic—our most advanced orchestra—will take the stage at the Tobin Center for our Zachry Series Spring Finale concert. The program will include the irresistibly tuneful *Dances in the Canebrakes* by Florence Price, who in 1933 became the first African-American composer performed by a major orchestra. We will also present Ludwig van Beethoven's energetic Eighth Symphony, a fittingly joyful piece for this memorable occasion.

Clarinetist Anthony McGill will be our guest soloist on May 23, performing the beautiful Mozart Clarinet Concerto. The New York Philharmonic's first African-American principal player, McGill has been hailed by the *New York Times* for his "trademark brilliance, penetrating sound, and rich character" and serves on the faculties on two of the world's best-known conservatories, the Juilliard School and the Curtis Institute of Music. You may remember his performance at the 2009 inauguration of President Obama, premiering music by John Williams alongside violinist Itzhak Perlman, cellist Yo-Yo Ma, and pianist Gabriela Montero.



Anthony McGill, clarinet

Anthony McGill's appearance with the YOSA Philharmonic is made possible by generous support from the Russell Hill Rogers Fund for the Arts. We can't wait for our musicians to have the chance to collaborate with and learn from such a renowned artist!

Spring is always a time of rebirth, but 2021 brings an especially significant and meaningful spring. Like all of us, our young musicians have endured a long, hard winter during this pandemic. What a delight it is that they will finally be able to share their music with an audience after so long. Thank you for supporting YOSA's ongoing work to change kids' lives through music!

—Troy Peters, YOSA Music Director

Alumni Spotlight



Melissa Muñoz, YOSA Class of 2014

After graduating high school I attended The University of Texas at Austin and received my Bachelor of Music degree with an emphasis in trumpet performance. I then went to the Yale School of Music and received my Master of Music degree - also with an emphasis in trumpet performance. I am currently pursuing the Professional Studies Certificate at the Colburn School under the tutelage of Jim Wilt.

I am a co-founder of Brass Out Loud, an organization dedicated to uplifting the voices of underrepresented brass players. We had our inaugural virtual workshop this January, which was a three-day event that featured a wide variety of courses including, but not limited to: instrument-specific performance masterclasses, mindset seminars, a yoga course, and two panel discussions that featured prominent musicians speaking about relevant social issues. We continue to host events throughout the year, in which most are free! Check us out at brassoutloud.com

YOSA was instrumental in my development as a young musician, as I had never performed in an orchestral setting. Interacting with my section and working under the baton of Troy Peters are some of my fondest memories from high school. It is what ultimately led me to pursuing orchestral trumpet as a career, and I am so grateful for my time spent in YOSA!

Paula Wilson, YOSA Class of 2017

I am currently a senior at Indiana University and will receive a Bachelor of Music in Flute Performance with a minor in Arts Management. Afterwards, I plan to attend American University to pursue a master's degree in Arts Management.

One project I am especially proud of is envisioning and developing a symposium entitled "Music School of Tomorrow" with the Alliance for the Transformation of the Musical Academe in partnership with the College Music Society. This virtual event was held in April and featured distinguished panelists from across the nation to continue the conversation on decolonizing the music curriculum at universities.

The summer after my freshman year at Indiana University, I was a YOSA Operations intern and discovered my passion for arts administration. Thanks to that experience being a catalyst for my career development, I will intern with the Nashville Symphony this summer through the Diversity in Arts Leadership Program at Americans for the Arts.

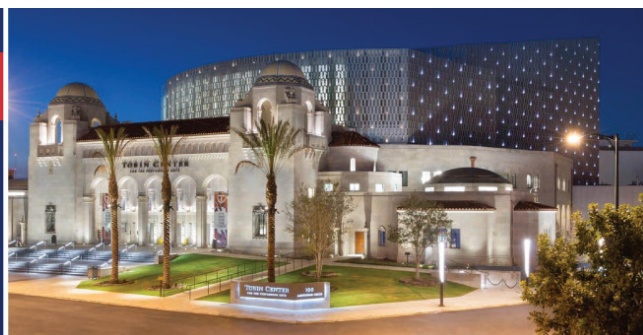


YOSA INVITATIONAL May 17 & 18, 2021

A festival of San Antonio-area
middle and high school bands and orchestras.



Free Admission | Festival livestream at yosa.org/watchlive



Make *YOSA* a part of your story

As YOSA closes a unique season and opens a new, here's how young musicians, donors, and concert-goers can make YOSA a part of their stories.

May 2021 YOSA Concerts

YOSA returns to the concert stage with a full line-up of concerts in May. YOSA City Series: Festival Finale kicks off the musical month on May 9 and 16. Nine YOSA ensembles will perform in four concerts. Performances will be held at Trinity Baptist Church and the Tobin Center for the Performing Arts.

To conclude the 2021/22 season, the YOSA Philharmonic will present a Spring Finale concert featuring New York Philharmonic Principal Clarinetist Anthony McGill.

Audiences will be able to enjoy live music in the concert hall and beyond. All concerts will be livestreamed at www.yosa.org/watchlive.



2021/22 Season Auditions

In YOSA, young musicians grow their musical skills, make lifelong friends, and create unforgettable memories.

The YOSA experience is one like no other. Passionate young musicians find community as they learn advanced music together and perform the world's most exciting classical music. YOSA musicians also have the opportunity to work with San Antonio's top professional musicians, including musicians of the San Antonio Symphony, and perform on stage at the Tobin Center.

Learn more at music.yosa.org/audition2021



“YOSA means a lot to me because it gives me the opportunity to learn new music, meet other young musicians, and perform with the help of the wonderful YOSA music faculty.”



YOSA Summer Symphony Camp is a wonderful opportunity for summer musical enrichment and fun!

Campers participate in daily rehearsals and sectionals with our outstanding camp faculty, San Antonio's top professional musicians and educators.



"I love getting together with friends and creating beautiful music."

YOSA's 2020 Summer Symphony Camp was offered entirely online, giving string players the opportunity to participate in a unique camp experience. YOSA is excited to be able to join together in person for our 2021 Summer Symphony Camp. This year's camp offerings include a Middle School String Orchestra, High School String Orchestra, and the popular Orchestra X.

Learn more at music.yosa.org/camp2021

YOSA in the Community

YOSA musicians, parents, board members, and staff are an active bunch. Through their schools, workplaces, churches, and other nonprofits, the YOSA family gives back to San Antonio in countless ways. In the past year, YOSA musicians have performed in public, completed Eagle Scout projects, volunteered to support those in need, and much more. Here are just three of the many ways in which YOSA gives back.

"YOSA Plays it Forward" Food Drive

For the full month of April 2021, YOSA musicians and families gave non-perishable foods to be donated to the San Antonio Food Bank. Red donation barrels were placed at YOSA rehearsals and the YOSA office. YOSA families were generous and donated hundreds of food items. YOSA is pleased to support the San Antonio Food Bank's mission to Fight Hunger and Feed Hope.

YOSA at the Garden

A group of YOSA musicians performed for the opening of the Frida Kahlo Oasis exhibit at the San Antonio Botanical Garden. A string quartet and woodwind quintet greeted visitors as they strolled through the new exhibit, which is open May 8 through November 2, 2021.

YOSA Small Business Month

Support YOSA through your small business! Do you own or work for a small business that would like to partner with YOSA? YOSA Small Business Month is this June, and we're looking to team up with YOSA family businesses to increase your customer base while generating support for YOSA. To learn how your small business can participate please contact Laura Cheng at Icheng@yosa.org.

Donors and Friends

We are grateful for the community of YOSA donors who have supported us through the challenges and opportunities this last year has presented. Donations have ensured that YOSA continues to remove barriers to music education and provide young musicians with opportunities to connect, create, learn, and laugh. **Thank you to the donors below whose gift was received between April 1, 2020 to March 31, 2021 Every dollar donated to YOSA has changed kids' lives through music.**

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