

# Young Voices of Austin

## OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER



## Winter Highlights

We were tremendously grateful for our full schedules this past winter. Our choristers continue to amaze us in year 3 and we admire the manner in which they step up and into new challenges and pursuits as young artists and humans. As we prepare for concerts and fundraising events, we are also preparing to bid farewell to six graduating senior choristers. Five of these very special humans are part of the inaugural group of 2017 and one who feels as though they have been with us forever. Thank you to everyone who came to support us at our Love Train concert, our performance at the Austin Trail of Lights and Vox Electus' special performance at the Paramount!

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A special thank you to: Pueblo Viejo, Austin Terrier, Killa Wassi, Micklethwait Craft Meats, Craigo's and Mission Dogs for their partnership in these past years as they help feed our choristers on a weekly basis. A round of applause for 2019-2020 newest additions: Home Slice, Fresa's, Good Pop, Rudy's, Evangeline Cafe, Biderman's Deli, Sprouts, Pollo Rico, Sundaze and Four Brothers Venezuelan!

Read more about what our choristers were up to in the past few months and get acquainted with one of our graduating seniors on the next page of this newsletter.

# Chorister Spotlight: Rebecca Ding Pui, Vox Dominus

Greetings! One of our missions here at Young Voices of Austin is to celebrate and express the importance of diversity. To highlight our emphasis on diversity, this time I had a delightful interview with Rebecca Ding Pui from our High School group, Vox Dominus. Rebecca has been part of Young Voices of Austin from the very beginning and cannot wait to share her amazing experiences with you before she ventures off to college this coming fall!

-Jae Oh



## Rebecca's YVA Experience

- How has YVA helped you become a leader of your community? Before I joined YVA I never had the opportunity to sing. I didn't have confidence. Now, I have more confidence in myself and I get to share that with others
- What would you say to someone who is interested in joining YVA? We have a lot of fun and people are interested in helping you every day!
- What advice would you give to the younger Choristers? To be respectful to each other.
- What do you want to see more of in YVA? If we can have a songwriting class that would be cool!
- What is the best thing about YVA? I had a lot of fun with friends and got to know some friends and I love being with Elda, Diana, and Jae.
- What was your favorite song to sing at YVA? "Hallelujah."
- In five words or less, what's the best thing about YVA? A fun activity with Music.
- Would you mind sharing with us one of your favorite YVA memories? Singing with everyone.
- From any of our groups (Prima, Medius, and Dominus) is there someone that you are thankful for? I'm thankful for everyone.
- What is your vision for YVA? To have a bigger group and more opportunities to sing.

## Rebecca's Self

- What do you want to be when you grow up? What's your career goal? I want to be a nurse. I like to help people that are sick.
- What is your spirit animal? An otter because I like to talk and I am outgoing.
- What have you learned here that you'll take with you forever? To respect others and help others.
- What is your dream vacation? Hawaii.
- Who are you most thankful for? Parents.
- What is your best quality? That I am cheerful and happy.
- What was your favorite book to read as a child? Too many to mention.



# Music in December

## Love Train at the Austin Central Library

A magical and musical evening was held at the Austin Central Library on Saturday, December 7, 2019. It was an enchanting space to be in as our choristers created beautiful music during our sound check, all the while quiet Austinites picked up their books above them.

We had a sold out winter concert which included choristers and parents as guest speakers, and of course, our wonderful master of ceremonies, Robert Greenfield. Elda and Jae guided the choristers through the evening, but they themselves were awestruck by how much each of them had grown since September. The opener "Best Day of My Life" set the tone of the concert by sending a positive and energetic message through the room. Our newly formed Vox Electus was featured with their renditions of two classic selections: "Glory of Love" and "Sir Duke." These gave way to selections that we hope, tugged on the heartstrings of every audience member present. The mash up of Love Train and Put A Little Love was the best send off our young artists could share with everyone that evening. We are grateful to everyone who was present and to those who shared their well wishes and kind words with our choristers and staff.



Trail of Lights and reindeer ear fun!

## Choristers Around Town

An invitation to perform at the Trail of Lights for the third year in a row is not one that our choristers would pass up! It was a wonderful time for everyone, especially if you were able to be present for the choreographed rendition of the 12 Days of Christmas with audience performers.

Our Vox Electus was also chosen to provide exclusive musical accompaniment to the classic "White Christmas" at the Paramount and Stateside Theatre's annual Donor and Subscriber Holiday party. YVA choristers performed for the theatre's one thousand plus guest list, singing under the marquee snow flurries, as well as inside the theatre and even a special invitation from Jim Ritts to join him in front of the stage for a few songs before the program started.



Caroling at the Paramount Theatre!!

# Financial Literacy Workshop, Ping Pong, and Skating, Oh My!

A big thank you to PriceWaterhouseCoopers for hosting our third annual Financial Literacy and Career Workshops on January 12, 2020. Once again, Erin Sturgess from PwC led an amazing group of 20 volunteers that provided engaging curriculum in finances that met the needs of our various age groups. We are also grateful for their donation of breakfast tacos, pizza lunch, desserts, and cool water bottles for all of our choristers and volunteers present.

We were delighted to have guest speakers on our Career panel and recognize them as amazing and inspirational YVA partners: Sarah Evans, Lisa Fritsch, Kit Harper and Tristan Summers. Our PwC volunteers had prepared fun and educational age-appropriate workshops consisting of lessons/games on team-building, budgeting, planning for college, choosing a career interest, coding and entrepreneurship. Team members in Vox Medius and Dominus collaborated creatively and presented their Food Truck complete with menus and focus audience ideas.

After a day of learning and growing we were able to enjoy playtime at SPIN. For the second year in a row, SPIN reserved five ping pong tables and a Ping Pong Pro for our choristers. It was a blast for everyone involved.

We look forward to continuing our partnership with PwC and SPIN Austin and their outstanding staff. Thank you! To top it off, parents and choristers were also invited to continue the day with skating on the rooftop of Whole Foods and we are so grateful for this donation of time and fun!





KUTX LIVE: LADYSMITH BLACK MAMBAZO  
PRESENTED BY MAXWELL LOCKE & RITTER LLP

## Ladysmith Black Mambazo Sound Check

We are so grateful to the Paramount Theatre for the tremendous opportunity given to our choristers. They were invited to sit in at the sound check of the world renowned South African musicians of Ladysmith Black Mambazo on Friday, January 24. The group was so generous with their time by allowing our choristers and parents to ask questions and take photos with them. Thank you, Paramount Theatre and Ladysmith Black Mambazo!!





# SPRING 2020

**Music and Moonlight**  
Benefiting  
Young Voices of Austin  
Thursday, February 27, 2020  
6 PM

**Music Retreat**  
Saturday, February 29, 2020  
9:45 am–4 pm

**Vox Dominus Trip**  
Saturday, March 7, 2020  
TBD

**Spring Concert**  
Sunday, May 3, 2020  
Time TBD

YOUNG VOICES OF AUSTIN  
*Music and Moonlight*



*February 27<sup>th</sup>*

**MERCURY HALL**

615 CARDINAL LANE | AUSTIN, TX

**6:00 PM**