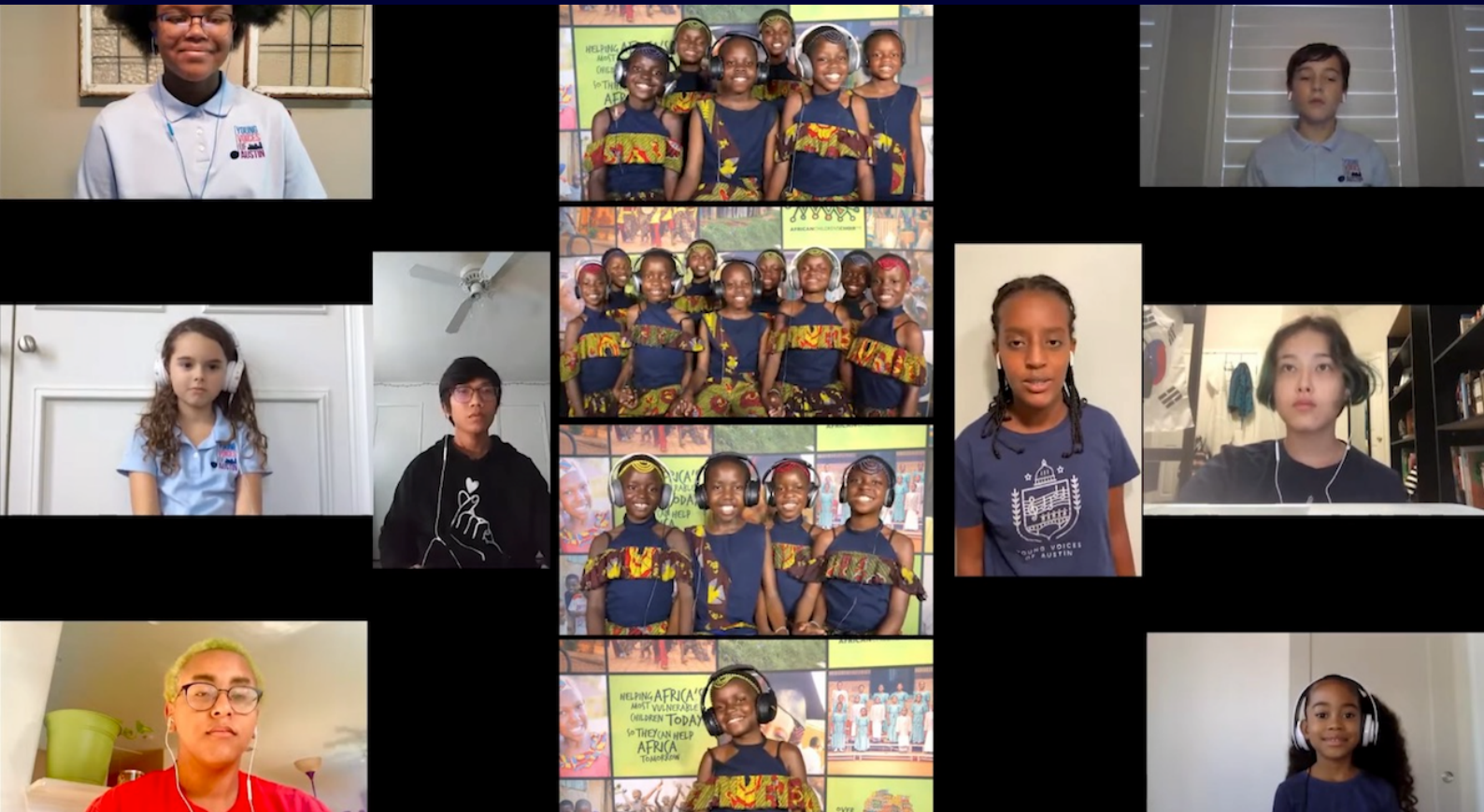


Young Voices of Austin

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER



Summer Highlights

This (extended) Summer, Young Voices of Austin made the most of our “indoor time” by virtually exploring the globe with The Nobility Project. With the help of Facebook Live, we met wildlife conservation experts and joined Summer Camp Safaris to learn about elephants in Kenya, Monarch butterflies in Mexico and Mountain Gorillas in Uganda! We watched six Dominus choristers graduate online and start their college journeys and sadly said goodbye to YVA families relocating to other cities (and countries!). Read on to learn more about our YVA choristers, staff, partners and adventures this summer!

With Gratitude

We have officially embarked on Year Four of Young Voices of Austin! Although we were forced to suspend the program in March, we are thrilled that all of our choristers and families have remained healthy and safe. We would like to thank our community, near and far, for their unwavering support. First and foremost: we would not have been able to continue operating without the **ASK Charitable Foundation**, as always, and **BBB Serving the Heart of Texas**. We are grateful beyond words for their support of our mission, our students and families. This will be our first program year without an official Welcome Event at **Austin Tennis Center**. We will miss our **Greater Austin Pickleball** volunteers and **Tyeschea West**'s beautiful photographs. (Side Note: Hope everyone will be able to join us on our tentatively rescheduled date — Saturday, January 9, 2021 at **Dreamland Dripping Springs**.) We kept busy this summer with hundreds of books donated by **BookSpring** and coloring inspiration and materials from **Studio Be**. Our partners at **Todos Juntos Learning Center**, **El Buen Samaritano** and **Austin Urban Technology Movement** - AUTM provided much needed resources. Choristers pitched in to help test collaborative videos with their rendition of When Will I Be Loved with **Jae, Sydney** and **Mat** working together to bring the music to life. YVA parents trekked out to pick up dozens of bags of program materials and uniforms. Our partners at **HubRunner** made sure music repertoire made it to the website in time. **Mayfield DQ** provided coupons for much appreciated ice cream treats.

We began again this month in a new, virtual format, so grateful for our families and community partners who are coming along for the ride. In addition to resuming our Prima, Medius and Dominus programs, we just finalized our second video in collaboration with the amazing **The African Children's Choir**. There have been lots of changes and we will continue to make adjustments along the way.

We expect to resume our in-person program sometime in 2021 when it is safe to do so. In the meantime, huge thanks to our 2019/2020 hosts **First Baptist Church of Austin** and **Next Level Valet, LLC**. We miss our "home" here in Austin and our amazing transportation partners. We will also miss performing at Austin **Trail of Lights** this year and playing pingpong together at **SPIN Austin**. We are so incredibly proud of our choristers. Throughout these challenging last few months, they have shown tremendous strength, flexibility and resilience. We are grateful to be able to continue working with them each week and helping them to grow and learn together.



Our Program

Monday

Vox Medius 4:30-6:00 PM

Vox Dominus 5:30 - 7 PM

Tuesday

Vox Prima 4:00 - 5:30 PM

New mailing address:
2400 Kathy Cove Austin, TX 78704



Congratulations: **Jae Oh**, Interim Director of Choral Activities (formerly Office Manager & Assistant Conductor)

As a graduate of the University of Texas at Austin, where he received a BM in Music Education, Jae studied choral conducting with Dr. Suzanne Pence of UT Concert Chorale and is also a co-conductor of Austin Harmony Youth Chamber Orchestra. Since joining YVA in 2018, Jae has shared rich experiences of music and academics through creative activities to help shape the next generation of leaders. He enjoys working with young students and is adamant about promoting diversity and freedom of expression.

Our Impact 2019-2020

CHORISTERS ENROLLED	38
SCHOOLS REPRESENTED	25
SCHOLARSHIP RATE	73%
COMMUNITY PARTNERS	205
VOLUNTEER HOURS	280
MEALS SERVED	749
RICHARD'S RAINWATER (BOTTLES DONATED)	900

Chorister Spotlight: Allie O'Shieles, Vox Medius

Greetings! Young Voices of Austin is made up of people from many different walks of life! To highlight our emphasis on diversity, I will be interviewing a few students from our Prima, Medius, and Dominus divisions. Get ready to meet our choristers!

-Jae Oh



Allie's Self:

- What do you want to be when you grow up? What's your career goal? I'm not sure just yet, but I would like to write books and work with animals
- What is your spirit animal, why? Wolf. Because I feel I have good instincts and can be happy with a "pack" (like family and friends) but also do well on my own.
- What is your dream vacation? Costa Rica. I want to visit the exotic animals and embrace all the colors.
- What are you most thankful for? My mother. She teaches me valuable life lessons.
- What is your best quality? Smart, Generous, and Kind
- What was your favorite book to read as a child? Oliver Twist

Allie's YVA Experience:

- How has YVA helped you become a leader of your community? It has helped me build my confidence and stronger mind
- What would you say to someone who is interested in joining YVA? It's a great community, everyone is nice, and it's fun.
- What do you want to see more of in YVA? I like it the way it is. Change can be hard.
- What was your favorite song to sing at YVA? The song Circle Around the Moon.
- What's the best thing about YVA? I like to sing and make new friends.
- Would you mind sharing your favorite YVA Memory? Choir practices at UT, the Trail of Lights, and Diana's Birthday Celebration.
- From any of our groups (Prima, Medius, and Dominus) is there someone that you are particularly thankful for? DeeAsia. She is always so friendly
- What is your vision for YVA? That it becomes a very successful, award-winning choir.



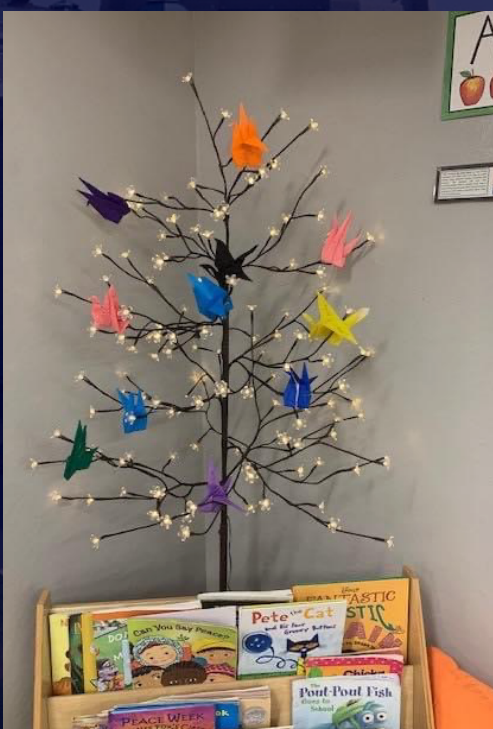
African Children's Choir



One of the very best things about our new virtual format is the ability to make music with young people from around the world. So proud of our latest collaboration - working with the amazing **The African Children's Choir**. Incredibly grateful to parents for encouraging and supporting their young people, helping with memorization and recording (horizontally!). Heartfelt thanks to everyone who came together to contribute their voice to this project and to our partners who came to us not only with the idea but also helped gather advice and expertise, musicians, and our amazing **Creative Director, Jim Shields**. Of course, all thanks and respect to the great **Ben E King**! Thank you from all of us at Young Voices of Austin Presenting **Stand By Me** by Young Voices of Austin and The African Children's Choir! (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=F2ORXu2PVsw&feature=youtu.be>)

Peace Crane Project

YVA Celebrated World Peace Day with The Peace Crane Project as we have the past three years. This beautiful little tree of YVA Prima cranes was assembled last September by our partners at St. Mary's School in Aliso Viejo, California. In 2019, Medius and Dominus exchanged with Millennia World School in Banten, Indonesia. We are thrilled to partner this year with schools in Katowice, Poland and Bantu Pahat Johor, Malaysia! We will be collecting and shipping cranes for the next two weeks - join us in sending love and peace around the globe!



Milestones



future Choristers



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SMILE.AMAZON.COM

Support us by purchasing goods on Amazon.



DONATION CHECKS PAYABLE TO
Young Voices of Austin
2400 Kathy Cove Austin, TX 78704

Donations In-Kind

Young Voices of Austin relies on in-kind giving: goods, services, and transactions not involving money. Get creative! These contributions are greatly appreciated and can be set-up through Diana Greenfield,
diana@youngvoicesofaustin.org.

Host Us

Let's party! YVA is looking for community members or parents to host small house parties to help introduce us to your friends in the community. You are our best network! For more information on hosting a house party please email
diana@youngvoicesofaustin.org.

Volunteer

Young Voices of Austin loves volunteers! Volunteers are needed at rehearsals, special events, and chorister activities. If you would like to get involved with YVA, please email Jae Oh,
Jae@youngvoicesofaustin.org.