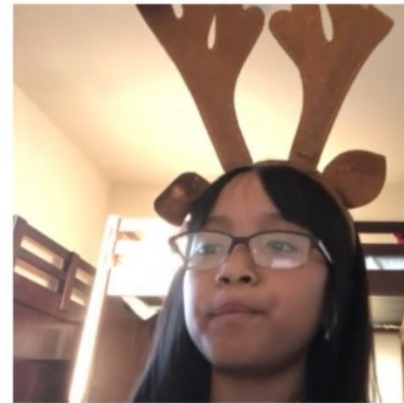
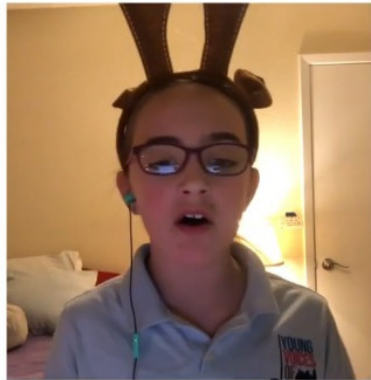
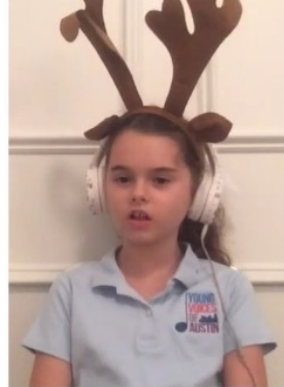


Young Voices of Austin

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER



Winter Highlights

THIS SEMESTER, YOUNG VOICES OF AUSTIN DELVED HEADFIRST INTO THE VIRTUAL WORLD WITH OUR NEW OCULUS QUEST 2 HEADSETS. TOGETHER, WE EXPLORED VIRTUAL REALITY TRIPS TO THE SAVANNAHS OF KENYA, THE RAIN FORESTS OF BORNEO (MALAYSIA) AND THE CORAL REEFS OF RAJA AMPAT (INDONESIA). WE ENCOUNTERED ELEPHANTS, ORANGUTANS, AND MANTA RAYS ALONG WITH THE PEOPLE WHO WORK TO PROTECT THESE ANIMALS AND THEIR HABITATS, ALL IN CINEMATIC VR.

WE WERE ALSO GIVEN THE AMAZING OPPORTUNITY FOR OUR STUDENTS TO POSSIBLY SPEAK WITH ASTRONAUTS KATE RUBINS AND SHANNON WALKER ON THE INTERNATIONAL SPACE STATION ON JAN. 7, 2021! WE SENT NASA VIDEOS OF YVA CHORISTERS ASKING THE ASTRONAUTS QUESTIONS ABOUT THEIR EXPERIENCES. CHOSEN VIDEOS WILL BE PLAYED DURING THE Q&A SESSION AND ANSWERED LIVE, FROM SPACE! GOOD LUCK TO ALL YVA STUDENTS WHO SUBMITTED VIDEOS - GREAT QUESTIONS, EVERYONE!

READ ON TO LEARN MORE ABOUT OUR YVA PROGRAM, PARTNERS AND ADVENTURES THIS FALL AND WINTER.

With Gratitude

ALL OF US AT **YOUNG VOICES OF AUSTIN** WOULD LIKE TO GIVE A SPECIAL SHOUT OUT TO OUR EVER GROWING VILLAGE - OUR DEDICATED TEAM OF FAMILIES, FRIENDS, PARTNERS AND EVERYONE ELSE WHO CHEERS US ON. IT HAS BEEN HUMBLING TO SEE OUR COMMUNITY COME TOGETHER TO KEEP US LEARNING AND THRIVING THIS YEAR. WE HAVE HAD SUCH A GREAT RESPONSE TO OUR **AUSTIN CHRONICLE WISH** LIST, INCLUDING OUR NEWEST ANGELS WHO DONATED A BRAND NEW YAMAHA KEYBOARD AND ACCESSORIES ☒. WE ARE THANKFUL FOR **AUSTIN TRAIL OF LIGHTS** FOR INVITING ALL OF OUR FAMILIES TO VIEW THE LIGHTS NEXT WEEK, TO **UNITED WAY** AND THE **AUSTIN COMMUNITY FOUNDATION** AND **UNITED WAY FOR GREATER AUSTIN** FOR THEIR SUPPORT OF OUR YVA STUDENTS AND FAMILIES THIS HOLIDAY SEASON AND TO **TCTX SERVE** FOR INCLUDING YOUNG VOICES OF AUSTIN IN THEIR DECEMBER LIST OF GRANTEES. THANK YOU FOR PARTNERING WITH US AND SO MANY OTHER LOCAL PROGRAMS TO COLLECTIVELY HELP CENTRAL TEXAS FAMILIES. GRATEFUL FOR OUR DEAR PARTNERS AT **YOUNG PEOPLE'S CHORUS OF NEW YORK CITY** FOR LEADING THE WAY AND **TODOS JUNTOS LEARNING CENTER**, FOR GIVING US A HEAD'S UP ON AVAILABLE RESOURCES AND FOR JOYFULLY SHARING THEIR FINDS. YVA BOARD MEMBER ANDY RODDICK **ANDY RODDICK FOUNDATION** FOR INVITING US TO JOIN THEIR AMAZING **LEARN ALL THE TIME NETWORK**, WE ARE THRILLED TO BE WORKING WITH YOU! **GREATER AUSTIN HISPANIC CHAMBER OF COMMERCE** FOR PARTNERING WITH US AND SHARING OUR GOALS WITH YOUR MEMBERS - GRACIAS! AND OUR NEW PARTNER, **TRADER JOE'S** - FOR YOUR HELP WITH OUR HOLIDAY BAGS THIS YEAR - HOT COCOA AND FIXINGS FOR EVERYONE! OUR FIRST EVER VIRTUAL CONCERT WILL PREMIERE LATER THIS WEEK (WITH ALL THANKS TO **JIM SHIELDS** AND **RIPPLE CREEK CREATIVE**). WE ARE SO GRATEFUL TO EVERYONE WHO CONTRIBUTED TO THE CONCERT - WITH A SPECIAL THANK YOU TO **AFRICAN CHILDREN'S CHOIR**, **SYDNEY WEST**, **MAT CAMPBELL**, **TAYLOR CARTER** AND DOMINUS CHORISTER **HANNAH HAAS** FOR ARRANGING INSTRUMENTAL/VOCAL PARTS FOR THE CHOIR. AND FINALLY, WE WOULDN'T HAVE BEEN ABLE TO CONTINUE OPERATING WITHOUT THE **ASK CHARITABLE FOUNDATION**, AS ALWAYS, AND NEW THIS YEAR, **UNITED WAY** AND **BBB SERVING THE HEART OF TEXAS**. WE ARE GRATEFUL BEYOND WORDS FOR YOUR SUPPORT OF OUR MISSION, OUR STUDENTS AND FAMILIES. ALL OF US AT YVA ARE INCREDIBLY GRATEFUL FOR YOUR LOVE AND SUPPORT AND CAN'T WAIT UNTIL WE CAN ALL BE TOGETHER AGAIN! ☒ ☒ ♥

YOUNG VOICES
OF AUSTIN
& AFRICAN
CHILDREN'S
CHOIR ZOOM
EVENT

SATURDAY
JANUARY 23
OR 30TH
2021
MORNING
TIME TBD

(UGANDA IS 9 HOURS AHEAD OF AUSTIN)



SAVE THE DATE



YOUNG VOICES OF AUSTIN
4TH ANNUAL WELCOME EVENT

JANUARY 9, 2021

Austin Tennis and
Pickleball Center
7800 Johnny Morris Road
Austin, TX 78724



POSTPONED



YOUNG VOICES OF AUSTIN
4TH ANNUAL FINANCIAL
LITERACY WORKSHOP

835 W 6th St #1600,
Austin, TX 78703



POSTPONED

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. For this edition, I got to meet with our lovely Hannah Haas! - Jae Oh



Hannah's YVA Experience:

- What was your favorite song to sing at YVA? My favorite song from YVA is hands-down "Hallelujah". The harmonies were beautiful and everything fit together perfectly. It made me so happy to be a part of a choir who had such amazing singers.
- What is your favorite thing about YVA? I love the diversity here. I've been exposed to so many cultures and mindsets that I frankly have never been able to experience firsthand before, and having so many unique people in one room becoming friends and doing their shared passion is so beautiful to me.
- What do you want to see more of in YVA? I'd like to see some more Chick-fil-A for our eventual in-person gatherings. (Didn't think I'd stop harping on food just because the choir isn't meeting, did you?) Jack-in-the-Box will work as a substitute.
- Would you mind sharing with us some of your favorite YVA memories? I loved going to New Orleans with the choir. It was the first time I've ever had a beignet, and I haven't had a better one since. I also enjoyed going to Hamilton, and I'm so glad I get to say that I saw something like that when a lot of people don't have an opportunity to do so.
- What would you say to someone who is interested in joining YVA? "What are you waiting for?" Really though, I would tell them to go for it as soon as possible. Once they see the community here, it will be so worth the little sacrifice of free time during the week. There's a place for everyone here.
- What is your vision for YVA? I want to see it grow into different branches and different locations, maybe hundreds of people in one choir joining for the two shows during the year. It would be so amazing to see it transform from a few kids in each division (though Prima has always been pretty full!) to a building full. I definitely think it can be done.
- How has YVA helped you become a leader of your community? I've learned to be confident about my singing and talents in general, and I've really leaned into my "head-strongness" because of it. When I know something is wrong, I'm not afraid to tell someone so. I guess I've also gotten comfortable with more diversity in thought, so I'm less rigid. It also helps me become more empathetic toward those I interact with.

Hannah's Self:

- What do you want to be when you grow up? What's your career goal? My dream is to put out an album and maybe make a career out of singing, but in the meantime, I would also like to get my master's in psychology. My goal is to help people in any way I can, and whether that is through therapy or my lyrics/voice, I'll be happy.
- What is your spirit animal, why? My spirit animal is a tiger. It exemplifies the type of person I want to be: strong, determined, and elegant. Also, they're just really pretty to look at.
- What have you learned here that you'll take with you forever? I've learned how to work with others that I can't guess the viewpoints of beforehand, which essentially means shutting my mouth and listening before speaking. I hope it'll serve me well in a professional career.
- What is your dream vacation? My dream vacation will always be in South Korea since I grew up there and have a lot of nostalgia for it. I'd love to go to Jeju or even the countryside since I've only seen the cities there. Since I'm a huge foodie, I'll probably just go to the places with the best specialties and eat until it's time to leave.
- What are you most thankful for? I'm most thankful for the opportunities I have. Going to a good school with a good network and a family that can more or less support what I need is something that a lot of people don't have, and I try to remember that when I become dissatisfied.
- What are your best qualities? I think I'm very empathic and know how to take charge of situations when needed. I try to understand where everyone is coming from and provide solutions or support, or at least learn about people more so that I can become a better peer for them.
- Who is/are your favorite singer/singers (Why)? I have a few, but the ones that stand out are Hwang So Yoon and Billie Eilish. So Yoon is the lead singer of Se So Neon, a Korean rock band, and her voice immediately caught my attention as so unique. Also, she has inspired me to write Korean lyrics and overall get better with lyric writing. Billie Eilish has also inspired me to work harder, as she found success as a teen.



Lifers



future Choristers





2020-2021 Program Calendar

January, 2021

Monday/Tuesday, January 11th/12th – YVA Program Resumes

Monday, January 18th – NO PROGRAM (MLK Holiday)

Saturday, January 23 or 30th (TBD) Morning Zoom with African Children's Choir students in Uganda

TBD

February, 2021

Monday, February 15th – NO PROGRAM (Presidents' Day)

February, (TBD) – YVA Celebration and Fundraiser

March, 2021

Monday/Tuesday, March 15/16th – NO PROGRAM (Spring Break)

April, 2021

April TBD – MANDATORY DRESS REHEARSAL, 9:45 am- 4:00 pm

May, 2021

May 1st or May 2nd possible SPRING CONCERT (TBD)

Support Young Voices of Austin Shop

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.