

Young Voices of Austin

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER



Spring Highlights

This semester, Young Voices of Austin choristers enjoyed amazing opportunities. For our Community Service days, we painted panels of Snoopy paintings to be sent to the Foundation for Hospital Art and then onto a children's hospital somewhere in the world.

We enjoyed an amazing opportunity to join a Zoom with children from the African Children's Choir in Uganda last month. We got up super early for our 9am Saturday Zoom and it was 6pm where they are. Students showed us around their school property and sang a song for us. We returned the favor and sang Jambo for them!

We were also given the incredible opportunity for our students to 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 were played during the Q&A session and answered live, from space!

Read on to learn more about our YVA program, partners and adventures this Spring.

With Gratitude

Thank you for being so supportive of our Young Voices of Austin kids and our mission. We say it all the time, but it really does take a tremendous Village to keep our program running. This Amplify Austin, we reused Amplify images created two years ago by a dear friend, Christina Collazo. For our Facebook posts, we ran out of recent images and grabbed concert photos by the amazing Tyeschea West taken over three years ago. During the recent water outage, our partners at Richard's Rainwater provided dozens of cases of water for our families and for our Community partners at Todos Juntos Learning Center and Mama Sana Vibrant Woman.

YVA has been virtual since March 2020. We had just returned from an overnight trip with our high schoolers to perform at Music Legends Park at Cafe Beignet New Orleans. It was our last performance - we had to cancel our May concert at Austin Public Library and our December 2020 concert. We will not have a May concert this year either. So there are no recent group photos of our kids to post.

BUT! The outpouring of support from our community has meant so much to us over the last year. It has been a bright light in the midst of this pandemic and it has given us the energy to continue supporting YVA families in a way that is most meaningful to them during this time. We were able to ensure that our choristers and their families had access to critical basic needs support, such as food, rent and utility assistance, as well as technology.

Since resuming classes this fall, our students have enjoyed amazing opportunities such as a video collaboration with the The African Children's Choir and have had the incredible opportunity to speak to Astronauts Kate Rubins and Shannon Walker on the International Space Station. We also completed a piece of art to share with the Foundation for Hospital Art. Thank you to all of these organizations for partnering with us this term.

We are working on our second virtual concert, which will premiere in early May (with all thanks to Jim Shields and Ripple Creek Creative). We are so grateful to everyone who has contributed along the way - with a special thank you to Sydney West for her amazing vocal tracks, Payton Jones for endless volunteer hours working on paper cranes and filling Birthday boxes, Dominus chorister Hannah Haas for arranging instrumental/vocal parts for the choir and Dominus chorister Elizabeth Toe Me for all of her help rounding up and divvying up and chasing down almost everything.

We have new partnerships with like-minded organizations such as the Afterschool Alliance Learn All The Time Network, Greater Austin Hispanic Chamber of Commerce and are working toward a very exciting new membership with the Youth Poet Laureate program. As always, our inspiration continues to be the inimitable Francisco Nunez and his Young People's Chorus of New York City. Forever grateful to ASK Charitable Foundation for being there every step of the way.

Young Voices of Austin will be back in the Fall, in person and safely, and we hope to see everyone at our upcoming events and holiday performance this December.

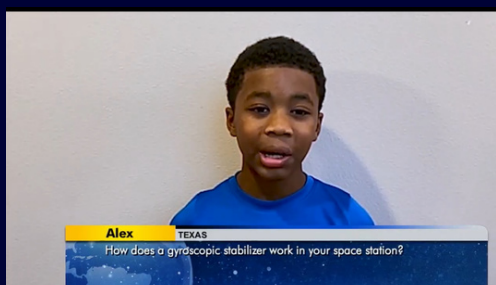
All of us at YVA are incredibly grateful for your love and support and can't wait until we can all be together again! ☺ ☺ ♥

NASA Livestream

This January, YVA students had the opportunity to submit questions to Astronauts Kate Rubins and Shannon Walker on the International Space Station. Medius Chorister Allie and Prima Chorister Brea and Brea's brother, Alex, represented Young Voices of Austin with great questions. Congratulations!

Full video available on YouTube here:

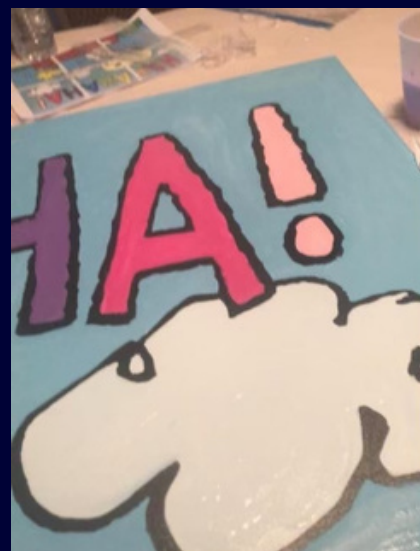
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=e57O1ey14nU>



Community Service

Our most recent community service project is heading back to Foundation for Hospital Art. Our students enjoyed painting our panels and are thrilled to join the over 1,000,000 volunteers and patients that have united to create over 49,000 paintings for over 7,500 hospital in 195 countries (whew!). We love the Foundation's quest to donate at least one painting to every hospital on Earth!

Ours is on the way! ♥



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 amazing Jaheim Canady!

-Jae

Jaheim's YVA Experience:

- What was your favorite song to sing at YVA? Glory
- What is your favorite thing about YVA? Meeting new people
- What do you want to see more of in YVA? Diversity
- Would you mind sharing with us some of your favorite YVA memories? When we went to New Orleans
- What would you say to someone who is interested in joining YVA? Do it!
- What is your vision for YVA? For them to expand out to other cities
- How has YVA helped you become a leader of your community? Being able to take charge when nobody else wants to

Jaheim's Self:

- What do you want to be when you grow up? What's your career goal? Want to have a job that deals with the ocean and going underwater.
- What is your spirit animal, why? The Rhino. They are very mythical to me
- What have you learned here that you'll take with you forever? To respect other people regardless of what they believe
- What is your dream vacation? Iceland
- Who are you most thankful for? My parents
- What are your best qualities? Leadership



Moving up to High school



Allie



Union



Zaw Ba



Miles



Valeria

Moving up to Middle school



Zo



Gillian



Zilh



AUDITIONS

'21-'22 SEASON

WHAT WE OFFER

OUR MISSION

The mission of Young Voices of Austin is to foster musical excellence, leadership, and sustained academic achievement. Our choristers become global citizens who use the power of music as the path to create bridges throughout our city and into the world.

FIRST PROGRAM DAYS (TENTATIVE)

September 13th and 14th 2021

VOX PRIMA

Tuesday, 4:00 - 6:30pm
1st to 5th grade

VOX MEDIUS

Monday, 4:30 - 7:00pm
6th to 8th grade

VOX DOMINUS

Monday, 5:30 - 8:00pm
9th to 12th grade

HOW TO AUDITION

Auditions are by appointment only.

To schedule a time please email:

yva@youngvoicesofaustin.org or

call us at 512-617-3908

DIVERSITY

Austin is a truly heterogeneous community with no ethnic or demographic group comprising a majority. Our after-school program seeks to match the cultural, ethnic and socioeconomic makeup of the greater Austin area. We welcome choristers, management and staff of all racial, religious and socioeconomic backgrounds.

MUSIC LITERACY

Choristers will learn critical music skills such as sight-reading, vocal technique, and performance based skills for the advancement of their cognitive and social development.

ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE

Students will receive tutoring and/or homework assistance in several subject areas to help advance their academic achievement and reinforce excellent homework habits and study skills. High Schoolers will receive assistance with college applications, FAFSA, and preparation for the SAT/ACT entrance exams.

FINANCIAL LITERACY

Our Choristers will develop financial responsibility and decision making skills by participating in the curriculum developed by PriceWaterhouseCoopers.

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.