

Young Voices of Austin

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER

IN TESTING TIMES WE BECAME THE BEST OF BEINGS

Amanda Gorman

Los Angeles Youth Poet Laureate



We did it!

Our virtual program came to a close this week. In all, we met for 23 weeks - chock full of singing, activities, art, virtual reality and STEM sets. Our choristers visited with children in Uganda via Zoom and spoke to astronauts at the International Space Station. With all of its COVID limitations, we made the most of our time together!

YVA students would normally be practicing for our May concert - but instead, we will look forward to concerts and performances in the Fall and Winter. We are beyond thrilled to partner with The Library Foundation in bringing the newly minted Austin Youth Laureate Program to our city (page 8)!

Preparations are underway for resuming our in-person program, which begins YEAR FIVE in September. Stay tuned for news of other exciting new partnerships and venues as we resume all four divisions with returning choristers and some new friends.

Thank you to everyone who came along for the ride, adapting to Zoom lessons and recording — on your own — to tracks. With your help, we were able to survive this bridge year. All of us at Young Voices of Austin look forward to singing and celebrating with everyone during our 2021/2022 season! ♥ ☐ ☐

With Gratitude

All of us at **Young Voices of Austin** would like to thank our ever-expanding Village - our dedicated team of students, families, friends, partners, volunteers, supporters and everyone else who cheers us on. We couldn't have made it through the last year without you!

In addition to everyone we "shouted out" on Facebook and in recent Newsletters, we are thrilled to add brand new partnerships with the **Youth Poet Laureate Program** and **ConnectKindness**. More news on both of those will follow.

In closing our fourth program year, we'd like to thank our students for sharing their talents with us. In particular, we would like to acknowledge Vox Dominus choristers **Hannah Haas** and **Elizabeth May** for all of their help this year. Vox Medius **Allie O'Shieles**, **Miles Kulhanek** and **Zaw Ba** were leaders in their division and helped coordinate and guide along the way. Vox Prima choristers **Charlotte Humphrey**, **Hula Thai**, **Eliana Torres** and **Gillian Graham** led in their division and showed newer choristers "the ropes".

End of year HUGE THANKS to **Jim Shields**, **Ripple Creek Creative**, **Sydney Arrendell West**, **Mat Campbell** and **Taylor Carter** for their collective efforts on our videos and voice recordings. Heartfelt gratitude to our steadfast partners **Afterschool Alliance** **Learn All The Time Network**, **The Austin Theatre Alliance /Paramount and Stateside Theatres**, **The Library Foundation**, **Greater Austin Hispanic Chamber of Commerce**, **The African Children's Choir**, **Creative Action**, **Young People's Chorus of New York City**, **Todos Juntos Learning Center**, **NASA (!)**, **Austin Chronicle**, **Austin Trail of Lights**, **the Andy Roddick Foundation**, **Trader Joe's** and so many others who pulled together to keep us running.

Christina Collazo, thank you for your invaluable guidance and support as we maneuvered the world of grants and securing access to resources for our families. **Payton Jones** for your endless volunteer hours, especially with our Community Service projects and distribution of hundreds of Peace Cranes. And **Robert Greenfield**, for all of the packing, driving, delivering and invaluable assistance with our huge Emergency water effort this Spring.

To our steadfast partners **Andies Shepherd** and **Next Level Valet**, we will see you in September!

And, finally, we wouldn't have been able to continue operating without the **ASK Charitable Foundation**, as always, and our grantors **BBB Serving the Heart of Texas**, **United Way**, **TCTX Serve**, **Young People's Chorus of New York City** and the **Austin Community Foundation**. **Richard's Rainwater** has been with us every step of the way, we appreciate all of you at RRW. All of our amazing board members, especially **Christy Pipkin**, who always knows what to do and is so generous in sharing nonprofit knowledge and guidance.

We are grateful beyond words for your support of our mission, our students and our families.

Young Voices of Austin will be back in the Fall, in person and safely. We will meet in a brand new venue (more on that later) and 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! ☺ ☺ ♥

Community Service

This was our fourth year partnering with local nonprofit Together We Rise.

No matter the age, birthdays are always a special day. Often children experiencing the foster system miss out on birthday celebrations. We worked with Together We Rise to provide birthday boxes to help celebrate those overlooked birthdays. Blank boxes were distributed in January, decorated at home and then returned to us for filling.

Thank you to our amazing volunteer, Payton, who helped coordinate all of that and then delivered all forty boxes to a local foster home. The individual decorated boxes will be enjoyed by children on their birthday. We are grateful to everyone who participated this year ♥



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 Hula Thai!

-Jae

Hula's YVA Experience:

- What was your favorite song to sing at YVA? See You Again
- What is your favorite thing about YVA? To sing with friends
- What do you want to see more of in YVA? In-person meeting
- Would you mind sharing with us some of your favorite YVA memories? Playing Bingo!
- What would you say to someone who is interested in joining YVA? It would be lovely for you to join!
- What is your vision for YVA? I'm not sure but I would love for us to sing together!
- How has YVA helped you become a leader of your community? To be responsible for my own actions.



Hula's Self:

- What do you want to be when you grow up? What's your career goal? A doctor or a teacher
- What is your spirit animal, why? Dolphin, because they are nice
- What have you learned here that you'll take with you forever? To follow rules and be responsible
- What is your dream vacation? North Carolina, because it looks beautiful
- Who are you most thankful for? People who help me!
- What are your best qualities? Great singing voice





Fall 2021

**Year 5 of YVA Begins
on September 11, 2021**

**SAVE
THE
DATE**

**YOUNG VOICES OF AUSTIN
5TH ANNUAL WELCOME EVENT**

**SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 11TH
2021
11-2PM**



**DREAMLAND
2770 W HWY 290
DRIPPING SPRINGS, TX 78620**

Milestones



*congratulations
to graduating vox Dominus!
Jaheim and Damien*





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.

Austin Youth Poet Laureate

Introducing the Austin Youth Poet Laureate Program

Austin-area teens ages 13-18 with an equal passion for **artistic excellence** and **social activism** are invited to apply for the honor of Austin Youth Poet Laureate (YPL). Austin YPL is a part of the National Youth Poet Laureate Program, which celebrates young poets using their voice to inspire change.



Applications open July 1st!

Learn more & apply at
austinlibrary.org/ypl

**The
Library
Foundation**

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.