



Austin Symphony
Orchestra's 2026
Request to Texas
Women for the Arts

\$10,000 grant to support ASO's
2027 Young People's Concerts



The Austin Symphony Orchestra

The mission of the Austin Symphony Orchestra (ASO) is to enhance the cultural quality of life for the adults and young people of Central Texas by providing excellence in music performance and educational programming.



Young People's Concerts

ASO's Young People's Concerts (YPCs) provide Central Texas 4th-5th grade students with educational, multidisciplinary orchestral performances. YPCs are carefully aligned with TEKS state teaching objectives for grades 4-5 Fine Arts and engage students with interactive presentations of orchestral masterpieces. Each year, YPCs are based on a subject theme; e.g., our 2026 YPCs were themed "The Water Cycle," merging science and music.



YPC Demographics

Annual participation: 12,500+ Central Texas 4th-5th grade students.

Participating school districts: Austin, Manor, Del Valle, Hutto, Round Rock, Eanes, and San Marcos.

% students at-risk: 48%

% students economically disadvantaged: 51%

% students bilingual: 58%

Race/Ethnicity Info

Asian/Pacific Islander: 5%

Black/African American: 6%

Hispanic/Latiné: 54%

White/Caucasian: 31%

Multiracial: 4%





We work closely with educators to develop educational materials, teacher guides, playlists, and lesson plans for students before, during, and after performances.

We conduct presentations in classrooms before the concerts to teach students about concert themes, activities, and etiquette.

During the performance, the conductor interacts with students by guiding them through the musical selections and sing-along activities. Additionally, an actor-narrator walks students through the narrative journey of the concert to vividly illustrate subject matter.

After the performance, teachers continue leading their students through curriculum exercises to demonstrate learning.

With a high rate of Spanish speakers in Central Texas, we focus on creating and providing bilingual English and Spanish educational materials to fully engage our student population.



Alignment with TWA's Mission

By integrating music with other subjects, YPCs show young children that the arts are integral to everything. Many students in Central Texas do not have the resources to enjoy a professional orchestra; by gathering thousands of students annually to witness our world-class musicians – at no cost to students, parents, or educators – we can illustrate the wonder and joys of music-making firsthand and inspire the next generation of musicians.


Research suggests arts engagement improves students' academic success and develops crucial socio-emotional skills. Students who participate in arts-integrated learning may have enhanced spatial-temporal reasoning, oral language skills (particularly ESL learners), and executive function. Additionally, research suggests fine arts-related field trip experiences can positively impact students in terms of improved writing scores on standardized tests, reduced disciplinary infractions, increased compassion and tolerance, and improved self-report school engagement, college aspirations, and arts-facilitated empathy.





YPC Personnel

Jeremy Brimhall, ASO's Director of Youth Education and Community Engagement, manages the YPC program. Prior to joining ASO in 2023, Jeremy held similar posts for over a decade with the San Antonio Symphony and San Antonio Philharmonic and previously performed as a musician of the State of Mexico Symphony Orchestra in Toluca, Mexico. With his background in developing and implementing orchestra education and community engagement programs, Jeremy provides expertise in managing and monitoring all of ASO's education and community engagement initiatives.





YPC Partners

Austin Independent School District

We serve all of AISD through the YPC program. AISD brings many resources to this project, including online resources, facilities, and personnel.

Women's Symphony League

ASO's affinity service group. The Women's Symphony League provides docents - many of whom are former educators themselves - to give presentations at schools before the concerts.

The Long Center for the Performing Arts


Built in 2008, the Long Center is Austin's premiere performing arts venue. YPCs enable students to attend professional orchestral performances in a state-of-the-art venue.

Testimonials

"As an educator of a high bilingual population, the Spanish and English dialogue really helped my students relate to the story. They felt connected immediately with what was happening. We also really appreciate the use of drama along with the symphony to keep students engaged."

"We simply loved everything. It was superb how the different performance arts were combined."

"Everything, each part was to the point, the music, narrating, singing, acting, it was well delivered. Timing was quick as the story developed but easy to grasp the main points and make connections. Loved the narrating as it moved the story line. Fun moments, love how both languages were incorporated."



Thank you for your
consideration!