

# Young Voices of Austin

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER



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## Summer Highlights

As we begin year three of YVA, we want to thank our community, near and far, for making 2018-2019 a huge success. We closed the season with a concert filled with unforgettable music and memories.

We are excited to announce the formation of a new select performance ensemble within YVA, Vox Electus! The choristers who have been chosen are among the best vocally and have shown notable leadership within the organization. We look forward to what is to come for YVA and this Electus group.

Diana, our Executive Director applied and was approved for an amazing grant through the Library of Congress to receive free books for our choristers. Read about Diana's adventure to DC and how she was able to return with 2 giant suitcases full of books for our choristers!

Read on to learn more about our YVA choristers, staff, partners, and adventures this summer!



First Austin  
901 Trinity St, Austin, TX 78701

# Our Program

## Mondays

Vox Prima 4-6:30 PM

Vox Dominus 5:30-8 PM

## Tuesdays

Vox Medius 4:30-7 PM

## Program Location:

First Austin

901 Trinity St. Austin, TX 78701



A special welcome to Carolina Sirias, our new Chorus Choreographer at Young Voices of Austin.



YOUNG VOICES  
OF AUSTIN

# Our Impact 2018-2019

Choristers Enrolled: 45

Schools Represented: 23

Scholarship Rate: 75%

Community Partners: 36

Volunteer Hours: ~200

Meals Served: 1500

Richards Rainwater: 1700  
bottles donated

# Children Will Listen Spring Concert Review



On Friday, May 3, 2019, our YVA choristers presented a beautiful choral concert filled with music that represented more of how our choristers feel and less about what we would like for them to feel. Our choristers continue to break barriers with every concert, and this one was no different. Every single chorister, many of whom had never performed on a stage until they joined us in 2018, stepped out of their comfort zone and showcased unified choreography throughout many of the selections in their spring concert. The selections ranged from well-known songs to new hip hop arrangements for the audience to enjoy.

Ray Kath-Lipson and Etta Corn created a beautiful scene with a beautiful rendition of Into the Wood's Children Will Listen which allowed our choristers to then, step forward, and through music, speak from their hearts. Vox Prima showcased their unified strength and exuberance through their dance and performance throughout the evening, especially during Touch the Sky. Vox Medius' theatrical performance of Accidentally In Love was fun and highlighted many of the talented individuals in their division during their solos. Vox Dominus stole the hearts of audience members with their performance of The Impossible Dream from The Man of La Mancha. Our choristers continue to amaze us, and we become better humans as they show us what it means to be brave and pursue life with their hearts in their hands.

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"The fact that children can make beautiful music is less significant than the fact that music can make beautiful children." Cheryl Lavender.



# YVA Conductors Travel to Tennessee

## YPC National Studio at Lee University



Elda (Artistic Director) and Jae (Assistant Conductor) had the honor and privilege of attending the YPC National Studio at Lee University in Cleveland, Tennessee. They were part of a cohort of artistic directors and choral conductors from Oklahoma, Georgia, New York, New Jersey, Illinois, and the Dominican Republic.

Elda and Jae participated in 4 days of intensive professional development that included observations of World Renowned Artistic Director, conductor and composer, Francisco Nuñez and the amazing staff of the Young People's Chorus of New York City.



YPC National Studio 2019 Cohort

Elda and Jae's daily schedule consisted of conversations with Francisco Nuñez, movement workshops, evening musical events, Drumming with world renowned conductor and composer, Jim Papoulis, score study sessions, and a piano puzzler with Bruce Adolphe to name a few.

Although the week was fast-paced and intense, Jae was grateful for the opportunity. "I had a wonderful time learning from such virtuosic musicians and performing with the Young People's Chorus was a joy!" The greatest experience for Elda was participating in Conducting Master Classes where she was able to conduct the performance choir of the Young People's Chorus of NYC and strengthen her skills as a musician and conductor under the guidance of Francisco Nuñez. She treasures the fantastic relationships created with other artistic directors around the country.

# Chorister Spotlight: Miles Kulhanek, 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



## Miles' YVA Experience:

- How has YVA helped you become a leader of your community? One thing that YVA has helped me is to be calm during stressful situations. We do a lot here, with music, arts and many activities that can be fast-paced. Also during the concert we all have to be calm to do well.
- What would you say to someone who is interested in joining YVA? Come and Join! It's fun, you get to do many cool activities with Diana and you get to meet all kinds of cool people.
- What advice would you give to the younger Choristers? To pay attention to Diana and Elda when they are giving out instructions.
- What do you want to see more of in YVA? If we can have a songwriting class that would be cool!
- What was your favorite song to sing at YVA? The song "Why We Sing."
- In five words or less, what's the best thing about YVA? Being able to connect with different people. (7 words)
- Would you mind sharing your favorite YVA Memory? There was one time where Lucia and I were in heated debate! But we were just laughing because none of our arguments made sense! Hahaha
- 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? Continue to meet different people from different countries and states. It would be cool if we do like a music competition too.



## Clip of Miles' summer adventures

### Miles' Self:

- What do you want to be when you grow up? What's your career goal? To be honest, I would love to do something with Music or Art.
- What is your spirit animal, why? An Otter because I like to talk and I'm outgoing.
- What is your dream vacation? Japan
- What are you most thankful for? My mother. She is always there for me. I can always count on her to help me with anything.
- What is your best quality? I tend to pick up things very fast!
- What was your favorite book to read as a child? (Too many to mention)



Miles at a Brenham Arts Day Camp.

# Welcome Event with GAP



Our third YVA/GAP pickleball event was a huge success and so much fun. Our choristers and families had a blast on the courts with all of the volunteer pickleball pros who were showing them the game, best technique, and just plain fun in the sun.

Thank you to Greater Austin Pickleball for organizing such a fantastic event; ASK Charitable Foundation, as always; Austin Tennis Center for letting us use the best courts around town; Tyeschea West for her wonderful photo coverage of the day. And to all the families who braved the heat with us for the afternoon.

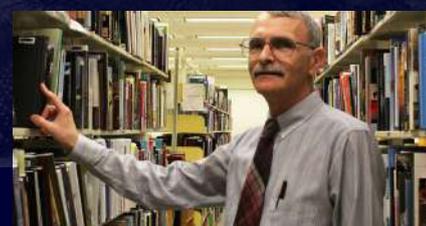
We had some special behind the scenes volunteers and partners who helped bring this event together: Greg Bland, Kit Harper, Shawn Koonce, Dairy Queen at Mayfield and Richard's Rainwater.

## Library of Congress Book Donation

The Library of Congress is the largest library in the world. Library of Congress staff reviews every article submitted to ensure that any item accepted into its collections can be properly cared for while meeting the needs of users. To best meet the needs of users, the Library selectively accepts scholarly and research materials that extend the breadth and depth of its collections.

At the conclusion of the vetting process, Library of Congress makes available, for donation to eligible organizations and institutions, surplus books which are not needed for its own uses. The guiding principle behind the Surplus Books Program is to build library collections. The available surplus publications are miscellaneous in character and, although shelved for review and selection, have not been listed or described anywhere. There is continuous turnover in the supply of books and they can only be received in person by an authorized representative of an eligible organization. Participating organizations and institutions are also responsible for making arrangements for the shipping of materials selected from the Surplus Books Program.

YVA/ASK Executive Director, Diana Greenfield, applied for consideration earlier this year. After approval, she traveled to Washington, DC to secure the initial donation. 247 random books later, our fledgling Library was born. Additional volumes will be brought back to Austin on subsequent trips. We expect the rich, diverse, and enduring source of knowledge collected will eventually be as amazing as the myriad of people who will come to rely on it. If you're in the neighborhood of YVA's offices, you are welcome to stop in, read some books and share a cup of coffee with us. Your thoughtful interest in helping develop the Young Voices of Austin/ASK Foundation collection helps ensure it remains strong.





# 2019-2020

**LOVE TRAIN**  
YOUNG VOICES OF AUSTIN  
WINTER CONCERT

**Saturday  
December 7<sup>th</sup>  
7:00 pm**

AUSTIN CENTRAL LIBRARY  
710 W. CESAR CHAVEZ ST.

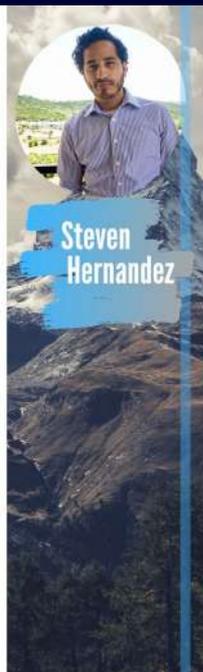
**YOUTH SPEAKER/MUSIC ARTIST**

Steven is a passionate and experienced speaker, helping students dealing with bullying, life choices, and mental health.

He has been impacting young people for 8 years. His message to **Do Something Great** encourages and challenges students to gain confidence in themselves and live on purpose.

**School Program**  
Includes: Do Something Great- Keynote and music performance.

AVAILABLE TO SPEAK AT YOUR EVENT CONTACT:  
DoSomethingGreat.today  
h.steveneric@gmail.com  
(713)-679-3822



Steven Hernández @ YVA  
Monday/Tuesday, Sept. 30/Oct. 1

Music Retreat  
Saturday, October 19, 2019  
9:45 am—4 pm

Love Train  
Winter 2019 Concert  
Sunday, December 7, 2019  
7 pm

PriceWaterhouseCoopers  
Financial Literacy Workshop  
Saturday, January 11, 2020  
9:45 am-3 pm

Chorister Outing to SPIN  
Saturday, January 11, 2020  
3:00 pm-5 pm

YOUNG VOICES OF AUSTIN  
*Music and Moonlight*

February 27<sup>th</sup>  
**MERCURY HALL**  
615 CARDINAL LANE | AUSTIN, TX  
6:00 PM

*Please Join Us*

Under the Moonlight on Thursday, February 27, 2020 as Young Voices of Austin celebrates our commitment to creating stronger musicians and stronger people, empowering the voices of Austin's youngest citizens so that they may become its future leaders.

**MERCURY HALL**  
615 CARDINAL LANE  
AUSTIN, TX 78704

**6:00PM** COCKTAIL RECEPTION AND RAFFLE  
SILENT AUCTION OPENS

**7:00PM** PERFORMANCE BY YVA VOX ELECTUS

**8:00PM** SILENT AUCTION CLOSES  
AUCTION WINNERS ANNOUNCED

WWW.YOUNGVOICESOFAUSTIN.ORG

Music and Moonlight  
Benefiting Young Voices of Austin  
Thursday, February 27, 2020  
6:00 pm

Music Retreat  
Saturday, February 29, 2020  
9:45 am—4 pm

Vox Dominus Trip  
Saturday, March 7, 2020  
TBD

Spring Concert  
Sunday, May 3, 2020  
Time TBD