



PROGRAM HANDBOOK

2020 – 2021

[www.youngvoicesofaustin.org](http://www.youngvoicesofaustin.org)

## Congratulations and Welcome to Young Voices of Austin!

It is with great excitement that we welcome you to our fourth year of YVA. We invite you to join us in kicking off the year with these three words from our Mission: Honorable. Accomplished. And Kind.

As a chorister of Young Voices of Austin, you will be expected to assume the role of professional musician and engaged participant during our program and events. We encourage you to use your time wisely so that you get the most enjoyment and benefit out of your commitment to YVA.

Please read this handbook with a parent or guardian and turn in the contract (last page), signed, at your final interview.

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## **Divisions**

YVA has three ensembles, each separated by the educational levels of Primary, Intermediate, and Secondary. All choristers perform in one major concert per semester in addition to other special events.

### **Vox Prima**

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

### **Vox Medius**

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

### **Vox Dominus**

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

## **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. Additionally, singers will engage in folk song and dance.

## **Academic Achievement**

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.

Our preliminary calendar is included below. The official calendar will be released August 2020.

**2020-2021  
Program Calendar  
September 2020**

Saturday, September 12th, 11am- 2pm – Chorister and Family Welcome Event	Austin Tennis and Pickleball Center
Monday, September 14th – First Program Day-Vox <b>Prima</b> , 4:00pm-6:30pm	First Austin
Monday, September 14th – First Program Day-Vox <b>Dominus</b> , 5:30pm-8:00pm	First Austin
Tuesday, September 15th – First Program Day-Vox <b>Medius</b> , 4:30pm-7:00pm	First Austin

**October 2020**

Monday/Tuesday, October 5th/6th – Solo Auditions	
Monday, October 12th – NO PROGRAM (Indigenous Peoples’ Day)	
Saturday, October 17th – Music Retreat, 9:45 am- 4:00 pm	First Austin

**November 2020**

Monday/Tuesday, November 2nd/3rd through November 30th/December 1st-Extended Rehearsal Austin	First
Saturday, November 21st – MANDATORY DRESS REHEARSAL, 9:45am-4pm	First Austin
Monday/Tuesday, November 23rd/24th – NO PROGRAM (Thanksgiving Break)	

**December 2020**

Saturday, December TBD – MANDATORY RUN-THROUGH, 2:00 pm CALL TIME	TBD
Saturday/Sunday, December 5th or 6th (Tentative) – WINTER CONCERT TIME TBD	TBD
Monday, December TBD – Winter Break Begins	
TRAIL OF LIGHTS	Time/Date TBD/Zilker Park

**January 2021**

Saturday, January TBD – Financial Literacy/Career Workshop, 9:45 am-3:00 pm	PricewaterhouseCoopers
Saturday, January TBD – Chorister Outing to SPIN, 3:00 pm- 5:00 pm	SPIN Austin
Monday/Tuesday, January 11th/12th – YVA Program Resumes	
Monday, January 18th – NO PROGRAM (MLK Holiday)	

**February 2021**

Monday/Tuesday, February 8th/9th – Solo Auditions	
Monday, February 15th – NO PROGRAM (Presidents’ Day)	
February, TBD – YVA Celebration and Fundraiser TBD	
February, TBD – YVA Celebration and Fundraiser	TBD
Saturday/Sunday, February 27th-28th– Dominus Trip (Tentative)	

**March 2021**

Saturday, March 6th– Music Retreat, 9:45 am- 4:00 pm	First Austin
Monday/Tuesday, March 15/16th – NO PROGRAM (Spring Break)	

**April 2021**

Saturday, April TBD – MANDATORY DRESS REHEARSAL, 9:45 am- 4:00 pm	First Austin
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**Concert Week**

<b>May 2021</b> MANDATORY RUN-THROUGH	Time/Location TBD
Saturday/Sunday, May 1st or 2nd – (Tentative) SPRING CONCERT	Time/Location-TBD

Please check regularly, as the calendar will change throughout the year as performances and special events are scheduled. Choristers and their parents will be expected to schedule appointments *around* our rehearsals and performances. It is important to note that we follow the AISD calendar with regard to any emergency closings. (5/11/2020)

## DRESS CODE

New and growing choristers will be provided one t-shirt, polo and fleece to be used at YVA concerts and events. If the provided uniform piece is lost, the student/parents will be responsible for purchasing a new one. Choristers are expected to keep all items well laundered throughout the year. Replacement costs: Fleece: \$30 Polo:\$25 T-Shirt:\$20

YVA T-shirts should be worn with blue jeans. Sneakers may be worn with this informal uniform.



Vox Prima and Medius polo shirt should be worn with light khaki pants and any pair of dark flat shoes.



Vox Dominus white button down logo shirt with khakis.



## **ATTENDANCE (PROGRAM DAYS)**

Excessive absence affects the group as a whole. Our regular rehearsal schedule is one time per week and that program time is very valuable to us as a team. Please demonstrate your commitment to the program and understanding of this rule by arranging appointments around YVA events.

If you are not able to attend the program day, please call or email the YVA office by 10 AM. Please email [yva@youngvoicesofaustin.org](mailto:yva@youngvoicesofaustin.org) or call the office to report your absence at 512-617-3908.

Acceptable number of absences for YVA Program: 2 absences from September through December and 3 absences from January through May-3 for a total of 5. This is an 80% attendance minimum rate that shows commitment to the organization and program.

**\* Does not include mandatory dress rehearsals and performances!**

## **ATTENDANCE – PROGRAM DAYS (FOLLOW UP)**

When a chorister is absent, it is his/her responsibility to: check in with their director(s) about the work that was covered at the missed program day; ie, activity, necessary music markings; home practice assignments.

## **ATTENDANCE – PERFORMANCES**

All Choristers MUST participate in the Winter and Spring concerts. Mark your calendars. Additionally, attending two full Dress Rehearsals is mandatory.

## **BEHAVIOR**

Choristers are expected to be respectful toward each other, YVA staff, concert hosts, and audience members at all times. Similarly, they are expected to treat their sheet music and facilities where they are guests, with care and respect. Choristers that are not respectful towards people and property will receive consequences that range from a warning to being charged for damage to dismissal from the program.

## **COLLEGE PREP**

Students that are preparing to apply to colleges will receive FAFSA and college application help beginning October 2020.

## **CONCERT ATTIRE**

All Choristers should arrive at each performance in complete concert attire, ready to sing. The attire will be announced several weeks in advance. Failure to wear specified concert attire may prevent a chorister from participating in the concert.

## **DRESS REHEARSALS**

Students must attend the mandatory dress rehearsals as scheduled. These will be the only rehearsals where all three ensembles meet at the same time. Additional rehearsals will be added as necessary.

## **ELECTRONIC DEVICES**

Phones must remain off and out of sight at all times, including transitional periods of between tutoring, enrichment time, and chorus. All cell phones will be placed in the cell phone hotel upon arrival.

## **FINANCIAL AID**

Scholarships are available for students who need assistance.

## **FINANCIAL LITERACY**

YVA, in collaboration with PriceWaterhouseCoopers will incorporate an element of financial literacy into our program. Students will develop financial responsibility and decision making skills by participating in the curriculum taught by PriceWaterhouseCoopers volunteers. A workshop will be held in early 2020.

## **FOLK SONG AND DANCE**

Prima and Medius will both be exposed to the kinetic aspect of music through special sessions of folk song and dance under the direction of Elda Garcia during their rehearsals throughout the year.



## **GUM**

Gum is never allowed in any facilities. Ever.

## **GRADES**

Choristers are required to submit a copy of their most recent report card at their initial interview. Choristers will be required to submit a copy of each consecutive report card for the entire year. This will be kept confidential and will only be used to track the progress of the chorister. This applies to second grade and up.

## **HOME PRACTICE**

Choristers are required to practice their music at home for at least 2 hours total before the next rehearsal. Options for practicing could be adding solfege, clapping difficult rhythms, marking dynamics, and/or singing through.

## **INTENT TO RETURN**

An Intent to Return form must be submitted a month before the last concert. This will help our staff plan for the following year.

## **IDENTIFICATION CARDS**

Your ID must be worn at every rehearsal and meeting of Young Voices of Austin. At performances, your ID must be with you on the premises and visible when not performing. Lost cards will incur a \$5 replacement fee.

## **ILLNESS**

If a singer is well enough to go to school and is not contagious, he/she should still consider attending rehearsal. If a singer cannot sing but is not sick, it is important that he/she still attend rehearsal if possible, but inform the Director that he/she will be listening to and following the music, marking the music appropriately, and singing inside his/her head. Even though a chorister is not actively singing, he/she is actively learning. However, if a chorister becomes ill during program time, a parent/guardian will be called and must make

arrangements to pick up their child in a timely manner. Under no circumstances will a sick student be allowed to ride the van.

## **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.  
Honorable. Accomplished. And Kind.

## **MUSIC FOLDERS**

Each chorister will be assigned a music folder for the entire program year. You will be responsible for this folder and a pencil in that folder to mark your music during every rehearsal. All music will be furnished. Choristers are required to bring their folders to every rehearsal without exception. If a chorister does not have their folder, they will be unable to fully engage in the rehearsal and thus be behind in the weekly progress of each piece of music being learned. Replacement Music Folder Fee: \$5 (Prima) and \$10 (Medius and Dominus). Music Octavo Fee: \$5 for each missing piece.

## **PICK-UP**

Students not taking the bus must be picked up promptly at the end of each program day. They cannot be left waiting outside the program venue. Parents should not wait for a phone call before coming to pick up their chorister. Choristers riding the bus must be picked up promptly from drop-off location.

## **PUNCTUALITY**

Arrive on time and ready to begin work.

## **RELEASE FORMS**

Each parent must sign all required release forms.

## **ROSTER**

A chorus roster will be distributed to all families at the beginning of the year.

## **SAT/ACT Prep**

Students will participate in provided tutoring for college entrance exams during the spring semester taught by qualified personnel.

## **SCENT**

No scent of any kind (perfume, cologne, after-shave, scented lotions and hygiene products, or scented hairspray) is allowed. Deodorant is OK! Some choristers may suffer allergic reactions to these scented products.

## **TRAVEL**

Choristers may take local and overnight trips. Trip dates will be announced in advance. When on trips, all rules of the program apply. Students who do not obey rules or exhibit unacceptable behavior will be sent home at parents' expense.

## **TUTORING**

Students will receive tutoring in any subject area(s) of need from tutors in local organizations and universities. These sessions will be scheduled throughout the year after the month of October and will provide weekly assistance to help complete homework assignments and improve skills in subject where the student needs extra reinforcement and practice.

## **TUITION**

The current tuition is \$700 per year. Tuition is due in full before August 9, 2020. Tuition is payable by check, money order or on our website through Paypal. Tuition fees are non-refundable. You may request a summer payment plan prior to the 2020-2021 season. Choristers will not be allowed to attend the first session of the program if their tuition has not been paid in full.

## **VOLUNTEERS**

Volunteers are always needed. If you are interested in volunteering your time and/or services, please contact us at 512-617-3908 or email us at [yva@youngvoicesofaustin.org](mailto:yva@youngvoicesofaustin.org) .

## **WEBSITE AND SOCIAL MEDIA**

Our official website is [www.youngvoicesofaustin.org](http://www.youngvoicesofaustin.org). Please visit the site and join our mailing list in order to receive important updates. Visit our YVA page on Facebook and be sure to Like and Follow!

## **CHORISTER/PARENT CHECKLIST**

- Read Program Handbook
- Print, complete, and return all forms, including:
  - Chorister Agreement Form
  - A copy of the most recent report card received (1st graders exempt)
  - All Release Forms
  - Copy of the front and back of insurance form
- Visit [www.youngvoicesofaustin.org](http://www.youngvoicesofaustin.org)
- Like our Young Voices of Austin page on Facebook
- Keep this Handbook in a handy spot for continued reference.

## CHORISTER AGREEMENT

2020-2021

I have read the Program Handbook and understand everything that will be expected of me as a chorister/parent(s) of this organization.

\_\_\_\_\_ Student Name (Printed) \_\_\_\_\_ Date

\_\_\_\_\_ Student Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date

\_\_\_\_\_ Parent/Guardian Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date

\_\_\_\_\_ Parent/Guardian Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date

Chorister's Street Address \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

### Emergency Contact Information

Please provide an emergency contact below. Emergency contact should be someone other than the parents/guardians.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Relationship: \_\_\_\_\_

Cell Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Alt. Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

We look forward to making music with all of you this year!