



Since 1996

*Virtuosi of Houston*

Young Artists Chamber & Jazz Orchestras

2017 / 2018 SEASON

# Sounds of EXCELLENCE

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**ANDRZEJ GRABIEC & FRANZ ANTON KRAGER**

*Founding Artistic Directors & Conductors*

**NOE MARMOLEJO**

*Jazz Orchestra Artistic Director & Conductor*





# A Commitment to Excellence

*Celebrating Our 22nd Season of Excellence in Chamber and Jazz Music Education and Performance*



Virtuosi of Houston (VoH) was founded in 1996 as a premier youth chamber orchestra for gifted instrumentalists to increase education and performance opportunities leading to a music profession for Houston's middle to high school age musicians and to bring an expanded repertoire of chamber and jazz works to Houston audiences. The

chamber group is smaller than a typical symphony orchestra, allowing these exceptional musicians to experience increased confidence, leadership, responsibility and skill through individual attention from two world-class conductors Andrzej Grabiec, Professor of Violin, and Franz Anton Krager, Director of Orchestras, both from the University of Houston, Moores School of Music.

Our orchestra is from very diverse backgrounds and represents more than 34 zip codes from 12 school districts, as well as several homeschooled students. The two VoH Maestri choose who is to be accepted when auditions are held. Any student that qualifies to be a part of the VoH orchestra is accepted regardless of their family's financial ability to pay the tuition. Each year, up to 35% of our

students receive full or partial financial assistance. The distinct desire to provide all potential students the opportunity to engage in activities that they may not be otherwise exposed to is what drives our community impact.

VoH performs three full chamber orchestra concerts per season, two concerts in Zilkha Hall at the Hobby Center for the Performing Arts, and the finale of the season, our Legends of the Future Gala Concert and Dinner, at a hotel ballroom. This is a full chamber orchestra performance but most of the music is Pops.

## The Virtuosi Difference

Our musicians excel because of their high level of performance experience, expanded knowledge of repertoire and increased sense of confidence, leadership skills, and responsibility. The importance of providing arts education to children encourages a desire for learning, creative thinking and individuality.

Over the past three years, 100% of our graduating students go on to college and a majority of them continued their music education as performance or music education majors. VoH graduates say they are better prepared to face the competition for admission to prestigious music schools and conservatories.





## Small Ensemble Program

The Small Ensemble Program consists of small ensembles that are drawn from our orchestra and coached by professionals. We performed over 80 events during the 2016–2017 season. Many of these performances are pro bono, performed in hospitals, senior citizen homes and elsewhere such as the Exotic Car Show, the Veterans Hospital, a convalescent center, Memorial City Mall and Texas Children's Hospital. For minimal fees VoH has performed at weddings and private venues.

## Summer String Workshop

The Summer String Workshop occurs every June for two weeks. The faculty is comprised of educators from the Houston Symphony, the Houston Grand Opera, the Houston Ballet Orchestra, and two renowned music schools in our city, Moores School of Music, University of Houston and Shepherd School of Music, Rice University. This workshop also provides enrichment classes where the student learn yoga for musicians, the Alexander Technique, Solfeggio and a life coach teaches deportment and life skills. This is a very unique summer workshop that gives the students unprecedented access to world-class music educators and other professionals. We offer financial discounts to families when necessary.

## Virtuosi Jazz Orchestra

Our jazz orchestra is comprised of 23 musicians from Houston area high schools. The orchestra is led by Noe Marmolejo, Associate Professor of Music and Director of Jazz Ensembles, Moores School of Music, University of Houston.

## Annual Concerto Competition

Every spring we host The Immanuel and Helen B. Olshan Concerto Competition at our Memorial City Mall studio. The competition is open to all VoH members. Those who compete are judged in the string and wind divisions by some of Houston's most acclaimed musicians. Winners in each division are awarded money to use towards their music training. First place winners are featured during our Concerto Concert.



## Touch of Music

In our 2016–2017 season, we started a new outreach program, *"A Touch of Music."* This program is a collaboration with the Houston Independent School District where we take our small ensembles to economically disadvantaged schools to perform and educate students about music in their after school programs. Our small ensembles perform for the students, show and teach the basics of classical music, instruments, etc. This program will expand this season to include other HISD campuses to reach more students who otherwise would not have any exposure to classical music. Students who participate in this program will also be given complimentary tickets to attend one of the Virtuosi of Houston concerts at the Hobby Center that will further enhance their cultural experience.



## Virtuosi Around the Globe

In 2015, we began a new program at Virtuosi of Houston, "Virtuosi Around the Globe." This program was born out of our first overseas visit to Paris, France in conjunction with the Texan French Alliance for the Arts. For one week VoH musicians studied each day at the famous Conservatoire de Paris à Rayonnement Régional de Paris and experienced the sights of Paris. When we saw what an impact this visit to Paris made in the lives of our musicians the program, Virtuosi Around the Globe was born. The Virtuosi orchestra visited the United Kingdom last season and studied at the University of Chichester, concluding the trip with a joint concert with the university orchestra at an 1,000 year old cathedral. We plan on traveling overseas every other year and are currently planning our next visit March 2019.



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## OPENING NIGHT CONCERT

**Saturday, December 2, 2017, 7:30pm**  
Hobby Center for the Performing Arts, Zilkha Hall

## 19TH ANNUAL VIRTUOSI OF HOUSTON IMMANUEL & HELEN B. OLSHAN CONCERTO COMPETITION

**Saturday, January 21, 2018, 9:00am**  
Virtuosi of Houston Studio, Memorial City Mall

## CONCERTO CONCERT

**Saturday, March 24, 2018, 7:30pm**  
Hobby Center for the Performing Arts, Zilkha Hall

## 17TH ANNUAL GALA CONCERT & DINNER LEGENDS OF THE FUTURE: CELEBRATING LEADERS OF S.T.E.A.M.

**Saturday, May 5, 2018**  
6pm: Cocktails and Silent Auction  
7pm: Dinner and Concert  
The Post Oak Hotel, Houston

## SMALL ENSEMBLE SUMMER WORKSHOP

**June 2018**  
Virtuosi of Houston Studio, Memorial City Mall





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