



Since 1996

*Virtuosi of Houston*  
Young Artists Chamber Orchestra  
and Jazz Ensemble

# *beginning of a new era*

2016 | 2017 SEASON

ANDRZEJ GRABIEC &  
FRANZ ANTON KRAGER  
*Founding Artistic Directors  
& Conductors*

NOE MARMOLEJO  
*Jazz Ensemble Artistic  
Director & Conductor*

# MORE THAN AN orchestra

*Celebrating Our 21st Season of Excellence in  
Chamber 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 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 campuses from 12 school districts, as well as several homeschooled students. Auditions are held and the two VoH Maestri choose who is to be accepted. 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, 6 to 10 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 usually performs three full chamber orchestra concerts, however, in the 2015–2016 season, we performed six full orchestra chamber concerts. VoH performs two concerts in Zilkha Hall at the Hobby Center for the Performing Arts, a state of the art performing arts facility. The finale of the season is 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. This past season, in addition to our three full chamber orchestra concerts, we also performed at the Houston Symphony Youth Orchestra Festival concert, a concert in Memorial City Mall during the Christmas season and a side by side concert with the Houston Symphony.

Following our return from an educational and performance visit to London, we will perform at the 2017 Annual Virtuosi Concert and Dinner gala, *"Legends of the Future: Celebrating all things British."*

## Small Ensemble Program

VOH also has a Small Ensemble program which is a program where small ensembles are drawn from our orchestra and coached by professionals. We performed over 80 events in the 2015–2016 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

VOH has a Summer String Workshop every June for two weeks. The faculty is comprised of educators from two renowned music schools in our city, Moores School of Music, University of Houston and Shepherd School of Music, Rice University as well as the Houston Symphony, the Houston Grand Opera and the Houston Ballet Orchestra. We also teach yoga for musicians, the Alexander Technique, Solfeggio and a Life Coach teaches deportment and life skills. This is a very unique summer workshop as so much else besides just music is taught. We do offer financial discounts to families when necessary. This program is very well received and we hope to build on it next season.

## Annual Concerto Competition

Every spring we host The Immanuel and Helen B. Olshan Foundation 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.

## 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, more than 90% of our graduating students have continued their music education at the college level 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.

We allow our musicians' aspirations to become a reality and enable them to pursue a career in music. We hope that you will join us in this quest.

## new THIS SEASON

### Touch of Music

We begin this summer and continue through the whole year a new program as outreach into the Houston community, "*A Touch of Music*." This program is a collaboration with the Houston Independent School District where we will take our small ensembles to the schools to perform for the after school programs. We have a musical instrument 'petting zoo' which allows students to experience different instruments. Our small ensembles will then play, show and teach the basics of classical music, instruments, etc. We will reach about 300 students with this program who otherwise would not have any exposure to music. They will also be given complimentary tickets to attend the VOH April Concerto Concert which will further enhance their cultural experience.



### Virtuosi Jazz Ensemble

This program is new and will be implemented in September 2016, featuring a jazz ensemble comprised of 23 musicians from Houston area high schools. The ensemble will be led by Noe Marmolejo, Associate Professor of Music and Director of Jazz Ensembles, Moores School of Music, University of Houston. Two concerts are scheduled for the 2016–2017 season.

### Virtuosi Around the Globe: *United Kingdom 2017*

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. We plan on going overseas every other year and hopefully welcome our hosts of the previous year the following year to Houston to study and perform with us.

From March 11, 2017 to March 19, 2017 we will be in the United Kingdom. Presently we are looking at various Royal Warrant Colleges of music in London to have the same partnership we had with the Conservatoire de Paris.





# 2016 / 2017 season

## OPENING NIGHT CONCERT

Saturday, December 3, 2016, 7:30pm  
Hobby Center for the Performing Arts, Zilkha Hall

## 18TH ANNUAL VIRTUOSI OF HOUSTON IMMANUEL AND HELEN B. OLSHAN FOUNDATION CONCERTO COMPETITION

Saturday, January 21, 2017  
Virtuosi Studio, Memorial City Mall

## INAUGURAL JAZZ ENSEMBLE CONCERT

Friday, January 27, 2017, 7pm  
Virtuosi Studio, Memorial City Mall

## HOUSTON YOUTH SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA FESTIVAL

Spring 2017  
Jones Hall

## LONDON TRIP

March 11–19, 2017

## CONCERTO CONCERT

Saturday, March 25, 2017, 7:30pm  
Hobby Center for the Performing Arts, Zilkha Hall

## 16TH ANNUAL GALA CONCERT & DINNER

Saturday, May 13, 2017  
6pm Cocktails and Silent Auction  
7pm Dinner and Concert  
Royal Sonesta Hotel, Houston

## SMALL ENSEMBLE SUMMER WORKSHOP

Monday, June 5–16, 2017, 2pm–6pm  
Virtuosi of Houston Studio, Memorial City Mall

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### STUDIO

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FANTABULOUS

Growing

MENTORING

Excellence

*passion*

SHINING

*perfecting*

exploration

ASPIRING

excitement

education

*musicality*

international performance

AWESOME

*focused*

ENLIGHTENED

Performing

KNOWLEDGE

striving

INNOVATIVE

Advancement