



## 2020-2021 SEASON AUDITION INFORMATION

Virtuosi of Houston begins its 25th season in the fall of 2020. Auditions for orchestra membership will be conducted in the following way:

**In response to concerns about the current COVID-19 pandemic, Virtuosi of Houston returning members will be requested to do an on line video format with a deadline of June 5 for the 2020 -21 Season. This deadline is for both the application and video submission.**

- **Returning Members Only:** Friday, June 5, 2020 Application and Video submission

September auditions will be held for new applicants at the Virtuosi of Houston Studio located in Memorial City Mall. A map of our location is available on the website [www.virtuosiofhouston.org](http://www.virtuosiofhouston.org)

### **New Applicants:**

- Friday, September 11, 2020; 5:00 pm to 9:00 pm
- Saturday, September 12, 2020; 9:00 am to 5 pm

### **Highlights of Virtuosi of Houston:**

- Only youth chamber orchestra in Houston.
- Virtuosi of Houston Maestros select 40-55 musicians by audition each season.
- Artistic Directors and Conductors Andrzej Grabiec and Franz Anton Krager founded the orchestra in 1996. Both serve on the faculty of the University of Houston Moores School of Music. Under this two-conductor structure, more individual training is provided.
- A typical season includes two concerts in a prominent concert venue and an annual fundraising concert and dinner gala in a prestigious Houston hotel.
- Total of 30 rehearsals during the academic year/season.
- Rehearsals are held twice a week on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 6:45 to 9:30 pm, beginning five weeks prior to the concert date.
- Dinner is provided by Virtuosi of Houston during rehearsals at break time.
- Rehearsal schedule is set so as not to conflict with other youth orchestras.
- Rehearsals are held in a state-of-the-art 5,000 square foot studio in Memorial City Mall.
- Concert programs are professionally designed and include a headshot and biography for each student member.
- An Annual Concerto Competition awards a total of \$10,250 in scholarship support to seven competitors. First-place winners in the wind and string divisions are also invited to perform as soloists in the spring concert. Scholarship funds can only be applied to music education expenses. The Concerto Competition is open only to current Virtuosi of Houston musicians.

Virtuosi of Houston operates on the theory that absorbing instruction in an intense, short period produces an excellent end product. The student musicians also benefit from the joint direction of two conductors. While one maestro is conducting from the podium, the other circulates throughout the ensemble tutoring individual players on the correct techniques of fingering, pitch, sound and other good music practices. Each student benefits from their complementary direction, expertise and knowledge.



## **EXPECTATIONS**

All Virtuosi of Houston members are expected to:

- Commit to attending all the rehearsals for the entire concert season. Three unexcused absences may result in dismissal from the orchestra. In case of direct conflict with a school event, the school event will always take precedence. All absences must be emailed to the Virtuosi office by 2:00 pm the day of the absence.
- Individually practice their respective parts and come prepared to rehearsals to the best of their ability.
- Demonstrate the highest standards of personal integrity with respect to one another, to the Artistic Directors, and to representatives of the management, the staff, volunteers, and the Board of Directors of the organization.

Virtuosi of Houston will provide:

- Many exciting musical experiences.
- An atmosphere of mutual respect and professionalism.
- Music Directors who will fully share their knowledge and expertise during rehearsals and concerts.



## 2019-2020 SEASON PROCEDURES AND AUDITION REQUIREMENTS

### **AUDITION REQUIREMENTS:**

- New members and returning Virtuosi of Houston orchestra members must audition.
- All applicants should be between 11 to 18 years of age as of September 2019.
- All applicants need to complete the two-page application form and pay a non-refundable application fee.
- Application fee for new applicants is \$45 and the fee for returning Virtuosi of Houston orchestra members is \$35. Checks made payable to Virtuosi of Houston. Master Card, Visa and American Express credit cards are accepted.

### **NEW MEMBERS SHOULD PREPARE THE FOLLOWING (memorization is not required):**

- Major and minor scales and arpeggios (3 octaves – string players; 2 octaves – wind players)
- One prepared solo or concert piece; piano accompaniment is not required
- Preparation of orchestral excerpts for your instrument. Please contact Virtuosi of Houston via email to request the excerpts ([kneedham@virtuosiofhouston.org](mailto:kneedham@virtuosiofhouston.org))

### **RETURNING MEMBERS NEED ONLY TO PREPARE THE FOLLOWING (memorization is not required):**

- One prepared solo or concert piece; piano accompaniment is not required.

All auditions for new applicants are held at the Virtuosi of Houston Studio in Memorial City Mall. A **map of our location is on the website** [www.virtuosiofhouston.org](http://www.virtuosiofhouston.org) .

The tuition fee for the 2020-21 season is \$950 per student and is payable upon acceptance. Students in need of financial assistance or payment arrangements should send a written request for tuition assistance within 10 days of acceptance notice. The form is available on the Virtuosi website, or a printed form will be mailed if requested. The executive committee of the Virtuosi of Houston Board of Directors will rule on all applications for financial assistance the first week of October 2020. (Please note: All applications must include a copy of both sides of the first page of your 2019 Federal income tax return, with your adjusted gross income information.)

Applications and audition fee must be received at least 7 days prior to the preferred audition date. If the deadline for applications cannot be met, please call to request a waiver.

**For additional information, please call Karen Needham at 832-797-6882.**

**You can complete and submit the application form online or you can mail, or e-mail the two-page application form and non-refundable application fee to:**

Ms. Karen Needham  
303 Memorial City Way, Suite 235  
Houston, TX 77024

**Email:** [kneedham@virtuosiofhouston.org](mailto:kneedham@virtuosiofhouston.org)



*Celebrating Our Twenty 25th Season of Excellence in Chamber Music Education and Performance*

### Credit Card Form

## PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY

Student's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Please charge to my credit card the amount of: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Name as it appears on credit card: \_\_\_\_\_

### Address as it appears on credit card bill

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

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

### Card Holder's Phone Numbers

Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Work Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

### Signature

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Visa

Master Card

Amex

Card #: \_\_\_\_\_ Expiration Date: \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_



## AUDITION APPLICATION FORM 2020-2021 SEASON

REQUESTED AUDITION DATE:  JUNE 6 |  SEPT. 11 PM  SEPT 12  AM OR  PM

**PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY**

### STUDENT INFORMATION:

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

INSTRUMENT: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_ CITY: \_\_\_\_\_ STATE: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

HOME PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_ CELL PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

STUDENT EMAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

SCHOOL NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ GRADE (*FALL 2020*): \_\_\_\_\_ AGE (*FALL 2020*): \_\_\_\_\_

SCHOOL DISTRICT: \_\_\_\_\_

### PARENT INFORMATION:

PARENT NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

PARENT'S ADDRESS (*IF DIFFERENT FROM ABOVE*):

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_ CITY: \_\_\_\_\_ STATE: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

HOME PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_ WORK PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_ CELL: \_\_\_\_\_

PARENT'S EMAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

PARENT'S NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

PARENT'S ADDRESS (*IF DIFFERENT FROM ABOVE*):

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_ CITY: \_\_\_\_\_ STATE: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

HOME PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_ WORK PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_ CELL: \_\_\_\_\_

PARENT'S EMAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

### MUSIC EDUCATION:

NUMBER OF YEARS MUSICAL STUDY: \_\_\_\_\_

ORCHESTRA DIRECTOR'S NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_ CITY: \_\_\_\_\_ STATE: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

PRIVATE TEACHER NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_ CITY: \_\_\_\_\_ STATE: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_



Region/State Experience:

Previous Youth Orchestra Experience:

Please attach additional pages if necessary.