

Learning and Community Programs 2022/23

Nurturing Creativity, Curiosity, and Virtuosity

Inspired by Music & Artistic Director Gustavo Dudamel's belief that "music is a fundamental human right," the Los Angeles Philharmonic is committed to bringing the transformative power of music into the lives of Angelenos. During the 2022/23 season, the Los Angeles Philharmonic's Learning and Community programs are reaching students, teachers, young musicians, families, and concertgoers of all ages through free and low-cost concerts, intensive orchestral training programs, mentorship of young composers, and complementary events at Walt Disney Concert Hall and venues across Los Angeles.

YOLA (Youth Orchestra Los Angeles)

Sixteen years ago, the LA Phil and its community partners launched YOLA (Youth Orchestra Los Angeles), a free music and youth development program, beginning with 80 students in South LA at the EXPO Center. Today, YOLA is composed of five orchestra sites annually engaging 1,700 musicians, ages 5 through 18, from culturally vibrant and ethnically diverse communities across Los Angeles County.

YOLA Overview

- 5 community sites
- Students aged 6-18
- Serving over 1,700 students annually
- 12 to 18 instruction hours per week
- Intensive in- and after-school ensemble-based learning
- Life skills development in leadership, mentorship, and communication
- Academic tutoring and college prep
- Parent and family engagement
- 90% attend college



YOLA Sites and Partners

Through YOLA, community, peer program, and philanthropic partners come together to serve a common goal: putting the transformative power of music-making into the hands of young people to ensure fundamental and equitable access to the arts and removing systemic barriers to this access.

YOLA at EXPO Center / Founded: 2007

The YOLA at EXPO Center program, within Exposition Park in South LA, has grown to include mentorship, group lessons, chamber music, and parent programs. YOLA at EXPO Center is a partnership of the LA Phil, Harmony Project, and the EXPO Center, a City of Los Angeles Department of Recreation and Parks facility.

Ages: 6–18

No. of Orchestras: 3

Hours Per Week: 12–18

Students: 330

YOLA at Camino Nuevo / Founded: 2017

YOLA at Camino Nuevo is the first in-school YOLA model, allowing the LA Phil to bring rigorous music education into the school day and extend it after school. The program currently serves students in grades K–12, in the Westlake/MacArthur Park area, at the Kayne Siart and Dalzell Lance High School campus of Camino Nuevo Charter Academy.

Ages: 5–13

Students: 635

Hours Per Week: 14

No. of Orchestras: 2

YOLA at HOLA / Founded: 2010

Classes at the Rampart District's YOLA at HOLA (Heart of Los Angeles) include music creativity, singing and solfège, ensemble rehearsals, and an hour of academic tutoring daily. YOLA at HOLA is a partnership between the LA Phil and Heart of Los Angeles (HOLA).

Ages: 8–18

Students: 300

Hours Per Week: 15

No. of Orchestras: 3

YOLA at Inglewood / Founded: 2021

YOLA at Inglewood is housed at the new Beckmen YOLA Center, which emerged out of a close collaboration between the City of Inglewood, architect Frank Gehry, and LA Phil Music & Artistic Director Gustavo Dudamel.

Ages: 6–10

Students: 200

Hours Per Week: 12

No. of Orchestras: 1

YOLA at Torres / Founded: 2014

Nestled on the campus of Esteban E. Torres High School, a performing arts magnet school in East LA, YOLA at Torres offers students the opportunity to thrive in an intensive, nurturing musical environment, receiving musical instruction and academic tutoring every week. YOLA at Torres receives logistics and infrastructure support from the East LA Performing Arts Magnet and Beyond the Bell.

Ages: 8–17

Students: 190

Hours Per Week: 12–15

No. of Orchestras: 3

Ages: 6–10

Students: 130

“I’ve developed more friendships because YOLA really makes you feel like everyone is supporting you and wanting you to do the best that you can.”

Dylan, Violin



Beckmen YOLA Center at Inglewood

As YOLA turns 16, the LA Phil reflects on the profound investment in its future, committed to increasing the number of musicians engaged by the program while also increasing the program's depth and services. The Judith and Thomas L. Beckmen YOLA Center at Inglewood (BYC) is the first, the boldest, and the most promising step forward toward that new future. The 25,000-square-foot Beckmen YOLA Center is central hub for YOLA and a haven dedicated to music education and the empowerment of each person who walks through its doors.

The Beckmen YOLA Center is:

- A new YOLA site, YOLA at Inglewood: Engaging 500 students from the Inglewood community annually.
- The home of the YOLA Institute and YOLA National Institute, which provide leadership development and pre-professional training opportunities, including private lessons, conservatory application support, expanded music ensembles, and additional performance opportunities.
- A rehearsal and performance space, bringing together students from all of YOLA's sites to play LA-wide YOLA programming.
- An international teaching center, which hosts teacher training and convenings for music educators from the U.S. and around the world, including the annual YOLA National Symposium and national trainings throughout the year.
- A community space. While billions in redevelopment funds have been invested in Inglewood in the last five years, the BYC stands apart as a facility built primarily for the benefit of Inglewood families, musicians, and community groups in and around Inglewood, outside of YOLA's hours.





YOLA Institute

The YOLA Institute is the program's featured hub for enhanced musical training and experiences for the YOLA program. At its core, the YOLA Institute houses three orchestra levels (Children's, Youth, Symphony), each connecting YOLA musicians who are included to pursue a musical pathway for their field of study or career. Additionally, since its first class of seniors graduated in the spring of 2015, the number of YOLA alumni who have pursued higher education (both at colleges and conservatories) has increased exponentially. YOLA's growing corps of alumni has stayed closely connected to the program, returning as YOLA staff members and teaching assistants, mentoring younger students, performing alongside their peers in chamber groups, and helping to guide the program's development. Their experiences have helped inform the creation of the YOLA Institute.

YOLA Institute resources include:

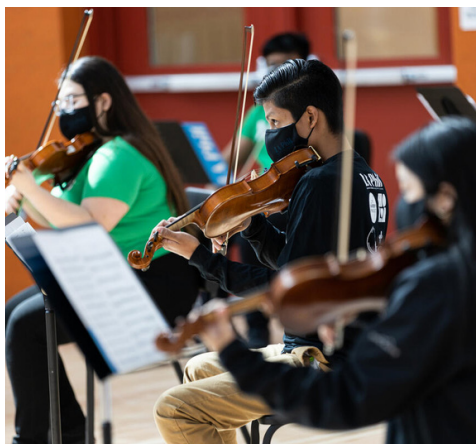
- Audition-based, cross-site orchestras
- Private lessons with LA Phil musicians and teaching artists
- College application support, including subsidized audition travel and recordings
- Additional training opportunities through chamber music ensembles
- Support with access to summer festivals and other high-intensive training programs
- Performance and travel opportunities, including regional, national, and international tours

YOLA Opportunities

YOLA's young musicians have performed in great concert halls all over the world and hundreds of venues throughout Southern California, on national and international television broadcasts, and alongside the greatest artists from numerous genres.

Beginning in 2013, YOLA musicians have accompanied the LA Phil on several of its orchestra tours, traveling to cities in Europe, the East Coast, and Asia. In the fall of 2016, a full YOLA orchestra of 80 students embarked on a five-city tour of California.

Whether they are sharing the Super Bowl halftime show stage with Chris Martin (Coldplay), Beyoncé, and Bruno Mars, or performing side-by-side with the LA Phil to open the Edinburgh International Festival, YOLA's musicians rise to any occasion.



YOLA National

YOLA National programs bring together those who believe that music education has a powerful role to play in youth and community development.

Designed to respond to the changing needs of the field, YOLA National offers an ever-growing number of opportunities for young musicians, teaching artists, program administrators, and other stakeholders to learn from and create community with one another.

Through YOLA National, the LA Phil places the lives, experiences, ideas, and artistry of young people from historically marginalized communities at the center of our work and aims to foster a dialog among practitioners who will help shape the future of the field. All YOLA National programs are provided at no cost to students for participation.

YOLA National Festival

An intensive summer orchestral training program, the YOLA National Festival is open to young musicians aged 12–18 from El Sistema-inspired programs and similar initiatives from across the country that are invested in youth and community development through music education. The festival features a Symphony Orchestra for musicians aged 14–18 and a Chamber Orchestra for musicians aged 12–14. Both Ensembles are given the opportunity to perform at Walt Disney Concert Hall at the end of the festival to celebrate their achievements as young artists throughout the program.

170 students served.

YOLA National Institute

Open to select musicians of the YOLA National Symphony Orchestra, the YOLA National Institute (YNI) convenes young musicians interested in pursuing a career in music. YNI Fellows engage in conversations with a wide variety of artists and music professionals and engage in creating their own music-centered projects.

25 students served.

YOLA National Symposium

The YOLA National Symposium brings together educators, administrators, advocates, and other key stakeholders invested in creative youth development and progressive music education to advance the field through collective learning and dialogue. Attendees collaborate to address core issues affecting the field of music education and hear from world-renowned educators, artists, social justice leaders, and youth advocates.

Approximately 350 people served.

Partners in Music Learning

This regranting initiative provides organizations in select regions across the U.S. with support to help unite, galvanize, and advance creative youth development and music programs. Partner programs receive:

- Financial support
- Professional development opportunities
- Access to programming resources
- A peer networks for sharing best practices

20 organizations served.



Programs Supporting Young Musicians

The LA Phil follows in a deep tradition of enlisting accomplished musicians as mentors. Our programs for young musicians aim to help them reach their potential and to inspire virtuosity. With the support of Los Angeles Philharmonic musicians, students and teachers learn important lifelong lessons.

Invited Rehearsals

Invitational rehearsals provide middle- and high-school music students and school orchestra and band instructors with a rare glimpse at the creative process of the Los Angeles Philharmonic as it prepares for a concert. As part of the experience, school ensembles will gain first-hand insight into the rehearsal process, along with information on the repertoire and composers, and participate in a dynamic and interactive workshop.

Approximately 2,000 students served.

Composer Fellowship Program

A unique offering among American orchestras, the Composer Fellowship Program (CFP) is an opportunity for high school-age composers to become a part of the LA Phil's thriving new music community. The innovative, multi-year program offers students a high level of consistent and intensive focus on the process of music composition, giving them the tools and freedom necessary to shape the future of concert music. Fellows are guided through the creative process from start to finish by internationally acclaimed composer and Program Director Andrew Norman. Students work with LA Phil musicians and guest artists in frequent reading sessions; hear their pieces performed by the LA Phil, chamber groups, and other orchestras; attend more than 20 concerts at Walt Disney Concert Hall; and engage with many of the world's greatest living composers.

15-20 students served.

National Composers Intensive

Since 2015, the LA Phil's National Composers Intensive has brought together contemporary composers, both those who are established and those with careers in the making. Serving composers aged 18-30, the National Composers Intensive demonstrates the LA Phil's commitment to the evolution of living music on a national scale and supports new music from commission to performance. These programs serve as models for the creation and performance of new music, which is at the very heart of the Los Angeles Philharmonic's identity.

8 people served.



Symphonies for Youth

The LA Phil believes in the profound and transforming experience of living music. We are committed to creating innovative music education programs that provide teachers and young people throughout the greater Los Angeles area access to the world's finest musicians and creative programming.



Symphonies for Youth

The Symphonies for Youth series showcases the Los Angeles Philharmonic in concerts created for children aged 5–11 and their families. These multi-disciplinary concerts are a perennial favorite of old and young alike and feature guest artists of the highest caliber, such as world-renowned pianist Emanuel Ax and three-time Grammy-winning jazz bassist Christian McBride. At engaging pre-concert activities, young people and families enjoy self-guided art activities and fun for all ages throughout the Walt Disney Concert Hall's spaces.

An audience of approximately 12,000 served.

Symphonies for Schools, Supported by The Walt Disney Company

Elementary schoolchildren are introduced to the LA Phil and middle and high school music students experience their “hometown A-team” orchestra annually through these free concerts at Walt Disney Concert Hall. A robust pre-concert curriculum is created for each concert to make musical connections in the classrooms. Teachers who participate attend a preparatory workshop focusing on implementing the curriculum in the classroom. The program culminates in unforgettable concerts developed especially for these age groups.

Approximately 13,500 students and teachers served.

Pasadena Showcase House for the Arts Youth Concerts

The Pasadena Showcase House for the Arts sponsors two LA Phil concerts at no cost for elementary schoolchildren from the San Gabriel Valley. These specially designed concerts for youth also include the distribution of program books with music and art activities.

Approximately 4,500 students served.

Adults & Community

The LA Phil leads the field in designing engaging concert experiences for specific audiences. We want to not only serve returning concertgoers but also new audiences with young faces, in unusual settings—in churches and school auditoriums—for people less familiar with music or with the Los Angeles Philharmonic.



Upbeat Live

These pre-concert events are an informative and engaging way to learn about the music before the performance begins. There will be more than 100 talks by renowned musicologists, panel discussions, and/or other special events held in BP Hall one hour before most concerts. Upbeat Live events are free with the purchase of a concert ticket.

An audience of approximately 350 served per event.

Neighborhood and Community Concerts

The LA Phil's concerts in the community include occasional free orchestra and chamber music concerts in churches, community centers, and other venues across Los Angeles. Concerts have been performed at East Los Angeles College, First Congregational Church, Macedonia Baptist Church, and Morningside High School.

An audience of 4,000 served.

Community Concert Connections

Through Community Concert Connections, the LA Phil distributes complimentary concert tickets to organizations that work with individuals in need, families, youth, and seniors who could not otherwise attend concerts. 501(c)(3) organizations submit a brief application describing who they serve and, once accepted, receive a set of concert dates from which to request their tickets. At the Hollywood Bowl, tickets are offered for Tuesday and Thursday evening Los Angeles Philharmonic performances.

Over 16,000 tickets distributed through more than 100 social service organizations.