



Learning and Community Programs 2023/24

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 2023/24 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, complimentary concerts and events at Walt Disney Concert Hall and venues across Los Angeles.

YOLA (Youth Orchestra Los Angeles)

Seventeen 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

- Five community sites
- Students aged 5–18
- Serving nearly 1,700 students annually
- 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% of YOLA alumni attend college

YOLA Timeline

At its founding, YOLA was given one key piece of advice from Gustavo Dudamel's mentor José Antonio Abreu: "Start small. Think big." Since 2007, the program's musicians, teaching artists, and leaders have been doing just that.

2007 YOLA at EXPO Center is founded with 80 students in South LA, in a partnership with Harmony Project and the EXPO Center, a City of Los Angeles Department of Recreation and Parks facility.

2009 YOLA debuts at the Hollywood Bowl for *¡Bienvenido Gustavo!*, a free community concert inaugurating the tenure of Gustavo Dudamel.

2010 YOLA's second site, YOLA at HOLA, is founded in partnership with Heart of Los Angeles.

2012 The inaugural Take a Stand symposium gathers hundreds of music educators from around the country, laying the foundation for YOLA National.

2013 Ten YOLA musicians accompany the LA Phil on tour to London—the first in a series of near-annual YOLA / LA Phil tours that have included trips to Boston, Tokyo, Seoul, Princeton, Edinburgh, and Mexico City.

2014 YOLA's third site, serving East LA, is founded. Today, it's known as YOLA at Torres (Esteban E. Torres High School) and receives logistics and infrastructure support from this East LA Performing Arts Magnet, Los Angeles Unified School District, and Beyond the Bell.

2016 For the first time, a full orchestra of 80 YOLA musicians goes on the road for the California Tour, with stops in five cities up and down the state. The National Take a Stand Festival launches, bringing together young musicians from Sistema-inspired programs across the country in regional orchestras at the Aspen Music Festival and School (CO) and Bard College (NY).

2017 YOLA at Camino Nuevo—the first YOLA program to combine in-school and after-school programming—launches in partnership with the Camino Nuevo Charter Academy.

2018 YOLA National is founded to provide opportunities for musicians, teaching artists, and leaders from youth development programs across the country.

2019 As part of its wide-ranging Centennial initiatives, the LA Phil begins construction of the first purpose-built, permanent musical home for YOLA—the Judith and Thomas L. Beckmen YOLA Center at Inglewood. A cross site YOLA Orchestra performs in Mexico City on tour with the Los Angeles Philharmonic and participates in an open rehearsal with 100 young Mexican musicians under Gustavo Dudamel at the Palacio de Bellas Artes.

2020 Working with incredible speed and dexterity, YOLA's teaching artists and administrators adapt the program to a digital platform within 48 hours of schools' closing due to COVID-19. YOLA remains a stable presence in the lives of its families throughout the pandemic.

2021 YOLA begins its 15th year of programming with the grand opening of the Judith and Thomas L. Beckmen YOLA Center and the launch of the program's fifth local site, YOLA at Inglewood.

YOLA Sites and Partners

Through YOLA, community partners, peer program partners, and philanthropic partners come together to serve a common goal: to put 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.

At its core, YOLA's focus is to provide incomparable and equitable access to a high-quality and intensive music education for young people in diverse and vibrant communities across Los Angeles and beyond. In providing this access, YOLA strives to support young people to leverage their learned skills and artistic identities and create transformational change for themselves and their communities.



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.

Students: 320

Number of Orchestras: 3

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. This holistic approach fosters a sense of community and provides students with the opportunity to take advantage of HOLA's exceptional programs and resources. YOLA at HOLA is a partnership between the LA Phil and Heart of Los Angeles (HOLA).

Students: 250

Number of Orchestras: 3

YOLA at Torres / Founded: 2014

Situated 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.

Students: 200

Number of Orchestras: 3

YOLA Musicians participate in an average of 12-15 hours/week of programming at each site.

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–8 at the Kayne Siart campus of Camino Nuevo Charter Academy in the Westlake/MacArthur Park area.

Students: 668

Number of Orchestras: 2

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.

Students: 180

Number of Orchestras: 1

**“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**

Judith and Thomas L. Beckmen YOLA Center

As YOLA turns 17, the LA Phil reflects on the profound investment in its future, committed to increasing the number of musicians participating in 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 toward that new future. The 25,000-square-foot Beckmen YOLA Center is a central hub for YOLA and a haven dedicated to music education and the empowerment of people who walk through its doors.

The Beckmen YOLA Center is:

- Engaging up to 500 YOLA musicians weekly, including musicians directly from the Inglewood community annually.
- The home of the YOLA Institute and YOLA National Institute, providing leadership development and pre-professional training opportunities, including private lessons, college application support, expanded music ensembles, and additional performance opportunities.
- A rehearsal and performance space, bringing together students from all of YOLA's sites to participate in programming.
- An international teaching center, hosting teacher training and convenings for music educators from the U.S. and around the world, including the annual YOLA National Accelerator and other offerings 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 for the benefit of Inglewood families, musicians and community groups in and around Inglewood.

The Beckmen YOLA Center Workforce Development Program

The Workforce Development Program is a two-year training program that provides young professionals with the opportunity to join the IATSE Local 33 and build their career in stagecraft while working at the Judith and Thomas L. Beckmen YOLA Center. Participants in the Workforce Development Program gain technical skills in all areas of event production and stagecraft and, as part of their experience, receive on-the-job training, job shadowing opportunities, and IATSE work opportunities.

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 inclined 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 network 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.

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 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 every one of its orchestra tours, traveling to cities on the East Coast, in Europe, and in 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.

The Leni Boorstin YOLA Administrative Fellowship

A two-year paid fellowship that offers YOLA graduates the opportunity to learn the infrastructure of arts organizations by working side by side with LA Phil and YOLA staff members and to think critically about the ways in which the LA Phil and YOLA connect with the community. Fellows work on community projects and receive mentorship and professional development opportunities.

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 communities at the center of our work and aims to foster a dialogue among practitioners who will help shape the future of the field.

YOLA National Festival

An intensive summer orchestral training program, the YOLA National Festival is open to young musicians aged 12–18 from 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 an Overture Orchestra for musicians aged 12–14.

YOLA National Institute

Open to select musicians of the YOLA National Festival, 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 their own music-centered projects.

YOLA National Accelerator

A convening of key stakeholders invested in progressive music education and youth development, the YOLA National Accelerator is an annual gathering aimed at sharing organizational best practices and engaging in dialogue around advocacy, research, and pedagogy.

Partners in Music Learning

This regranting program provides resources and support to organizations in targeted regions across the U.S. to help unite, galvanize, and advance creative youth development music programs.

Programs Supporting Young Musicians

The LA Phil follows 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

Invited 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 gain firsthand insight into the rehearsal process, along with information on the repertoire and composers, and participate in a dynamic and interactive workshop.

Approximately 750 students served.

Composer Fellowship Program

A unique offering among American orchestras, the Composer Fellowship Program (CFP) is an opportunity for composers in the 10th, 11th, and 12th grades to become a part of the LA Phil's new music community. The innovative, multiyear program offers students a consistent and intensive focus on the process of music composition, giving them the tools and freedom necessary to shape the future of concert music. 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 ensembles; attend more than 20 concerts at Walt Disney Concert Hall; and engage with many of the world's greatest living composers.

In addition to core CFP programming are the Steven Stucky and Sue Tsao Fellow Chairs. The Stucky Fellow Chair is chosen from a pool of CFP alumni to compose a piece for the LA Phil to perform at Symphonies for Schools. The Tsao Fellow Chair is chosen from the current CFP cohort to compose a piece for a YOLA ensemble.

15–20 students served.

Dudamel Fellowship Program

Since 2009, Dudamel Fellows have worked alongside Gustavo Dudamel and musicians of the Los Angeles Philharmonic, as well as visiting artists and conductors. Additionally, Fellows work with young people, musicians, and audiences in key LA Phil Learning programs. The program for each of the Fellows runs separately. The Fellows hone their skills through observation and application, such as conducting Los Angeles Philharmonic youth concerts at Walt Disney Concert Hall, participating as cover conductors, and serving as mentors themselves through participation in programs such as YOLA.

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 curated especially for children aged 6–11 and their families. These multidisciplinary concerts are a perennial favorite of old and young alike and feature guest artists of the highest caliber. During pre-concert art activations, young people and families enjoy self-guided activities and fun for all ages throughout the Concert Hall's spaces.

An audience of approximately 16,000 served.

Symphonies for Schools, Supported by The Walt Disney Company

Elementary school-age children 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 classroom. Teachers who participate attend a preparatory workshop focusing on implementing the curriculum. The program culminates in unforgettable concerts developed especially for these age groups.

Approximately 14,500 students.



Adults & Community

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

Upbeat Live

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

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 of Los Angeles, Macedonia Baptist Church, and Morningside High School, among other sites.

Audiences 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 whom they serve and, once the application is 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.