



The San Antonio Philharmonic's Commitment to Music Education and Community Outreach

The San Antonio Philharmonic exists of and for the community. Nothing could be more important to its mission than connecting with the diverse people of San Antonio in ways that are relevant, accessible and multi-generational. Apart from exposure to the wonders of classical and symphonic music by world-class musicians, a major goal of the Young People's Concerts and Community Engagement Initiative is to improve the quality of life for people in the city, thereby creating a stronger community for all.

2022-2023 Young People's Concerts

Following in the 80-year tradition of similarly-named, award-winning presentations by the previous San Antonio Symphony, Young People's Concerts are offered with free admission to upper elementary grade students. They are designed to engage an estimated 35,000 South Texas students with carefully crafted programming of music and narrative targeted to the proper age group. Programs are richly cross-curricular, multi-sensory and interactive. Robust educational materials support the concerts; they reflect the diversity of school populations and align to state teaching objectives. New doors open for youth as they are exposed to multiple art forms, cross-curricular connections and career opportunities they may never have known existed.

In partnership with local school districts, a total of 36 Young People's Concerts performances are slated for presentation at nine of the finest high school auditoriums in San Antonio this season. Special collaborations include [Link Up](#), a program of Carnegie Hall's Weill Music Institute that encompasses more than 100 orchestras and 400,000 students worldwide, as well as the Paint to Music Contest, a popular and long-standing interdisciplinary program of the San Antonio Symphony League.

Scheherazade: A Literary Adventure – Sept./Oct. 2022

Conductor: Stefan Sanders

Cross-curricular theme: Language arts

This Language Arts-themed program will feature excerpts from the literary classic, *1,001 Nights (Arabian Nights)*. The conductor will explore how composer Nikolai Rimsky-Korsakov paints these imaginative fairy tales into a beautiful symphonic adventure. Through TEKS-aligned preparatory activities and teaching materials, students will also learn about literary elements such as character types, conflict, theme and moral lessons, as well as new vocabulary.

The Planet Earth! – Nov. 2022

Conductor: Christopher Wilkins

Cross-curricular theme: Science

The planet we call home is a unique and wondrous place, from its active surface and core, diversity of life, landforms, climate regions, protective magnetic field, and more! Through the symphonic music of Stravinsky, Holst, Still and others we will explore what makes the Earth so unique ... and not so unique, in the larger picture of space.

A Celebration of Black Composers – Jan., 2023

Conductor: A Celebration of Black Composers – Jan. 2023

Conductor: Charles Floyd

Bass-Baritone: Timothy Jones

Cross-curricular theme: Social Studies

In 1930, American composer William Grant Still wrote an “Afro-American” Symphony in which he cleverly incorporated the sounds of spirituals and the blues into symphonic music. While many composers of African descent found success integrating the sounds of their heritage into their classical works, others developed a distinct voice all their own. This concert program celebrates DreamWeek with a program dedicated to Black composers who have made tremendous contributions to classical symphonic music despite significant obstacles.

Billy the Kid – Feb., 2023

Conductor: TBD

Cross-Curricular Theme: Social Studies

The tale of the southwestern cowboy in the mid-1800s and the disputed life of one Billy the Kid is told through the picturesque music of American composer Aaron Copland. Youngsters will get out their pastels, brushes and chalk to get a picture of this music on paper for the 2023 Paint to Music Contest! Rewards to be issued by the sheriff of the San Antonio Symphony League.

Link Up: The Orchestra Moves – March 2023

Conductor: TBD

Concert Theme: Audience Participation

[Link Up](#) guides students grades 3 through 5 and music teachers through a months-long exploration of orchestral repertoire supported by extensive, freely-provided curriculum materials and online resources. The program culminates in a performance at which students are invited to participate by playing a recorder or string instrument, singing and dancing along with the orchestra. This year's Link Up program, The Orchestra Moves, explores movement

within music (melody, rhythm, and harmony), as well as how music moves those who experience it.

Community Engagement Initiative

The Community Engagement Initiative is a multi-pronged effort that includes free-admission concerts at public venues as well as musician visits to schools, libraries, hospitals, retirement communities and more, thereby creating a stronger community for all.

The Philharmonic at Public Libraries

As part of the innovative Community Engagement Initiative, Philharmonic musicians plan to visit all 29 San Antonio Public Library (SAPL) locations for special children's presentations that include a mini-performance as well as a chance to see an instrument up close and learn about how it works. Musicians are eager to tell children and families about the work they do, how they chose their instrument, and more.

Young People's Concert Docent Presentation Visits

In anticipation of the Philharmonic's Young People's Concerts, musicians visit schools accompanied by a volunteer docent from the [San Antonio Symphony League](#) for an interactive presentation that previews the concert music, cross-curricular themes and concert etiquette. Musicians demonstrate their instruments and answer questions, creating a connection that continues into the concert hall, where students are often greeted by their visiting musician and can watch them perform on stage.