



Your generosity has real impact!
Hear from those your gift directly benefits :

Musicians

"I had the opportunity to solo with the Paganini concerto [with AYS] when I was 16 and that was one of the most formative moments of my entire life... [It] **absolutely transformed me as a player and a person.**"

-- Simone Porter (Violin, 2011-13)

"I have played in countless orchestras in my life, but **none have made me feel as inspired and proud as AYS.** I have to pinch myself both in rehearsals and on stage; it feels absolutely incredible to be engulfed by this beautiful, powerful sound, and surrounded by these incredible musicians."

-- Emma McAllister (Violin, 2014-- present)

Audience

"A group like AYS **has the power to keep music alive.**"

-- Audience member (September 27, 2015)

"I'm post-college, loan-filled, and poor so getting to have such an amazing night out with my husband was such a blessing. **What you do is amazing!** Thank you so much!"

-- Audience member (September 27, 2015)

Share-A-Stand Program

"Thank you AYS for coming. The music was beautiful and you all inspired me to want to go to college and study music. **You make me want to play music for the rest of my life!**"

-- Student (Markham Middle School)

"**This is my daughter's first concert. Mine too.** She's only in kindergarten, but I guess I've already given her a better life than I started out with."

-- Parent (Transfiguration Elementary School)



“beautiful &
haunting”

“gorgeous”

“remarkable”

“stirring”

“accomplished”

“emotional”

“top-notch”

“the finest youth symphony on earth”

Don't just take our word for it!

From major publications to classical music radio stations, the American Youth Symphony consistently receives rave reviews:

LA Times

“The American Youth Symphony, led by David Alan Miller, gave a remarkable performance of ‘Heaven Earth Mankind’... **they embraced the work's formidable demands with winning virtuosity**, producing rich-hued sonorities.”

-- The *LA Times* on sold-out performance at Walt Disney Concert Hall (March 14, 2016)

Variety

“Gustavo Dudamel conducted members of the American Youth Symphony in **a stirring rendition of Williams' theme from ‘Schindler's List.’**”

-- *Variety Magazine* on AYS tribute to AFI Lifetime Achievement Award winner and long-time AYS supporter and collaborator, John Williams (June 10, 2016)

Film Score Monthly, KUSC

“The American Youth Symphony stands high, mastering the challenge of performing film music with all its unconventional meters and rhythms. **Don't be deceived by the label of ‘youth’ orchestra; the AYS is the real deal.**”

-- Justin Craig, *Film Score Monthly*

“[AYS] is **the finest youth symphony on Earth.**”

-- Jim Svejda, *KUSC*