

**GROW
MUSICAL**



Y:CM
YOUNG ARTISTS
CONSERVATORY
of **MUSIC**

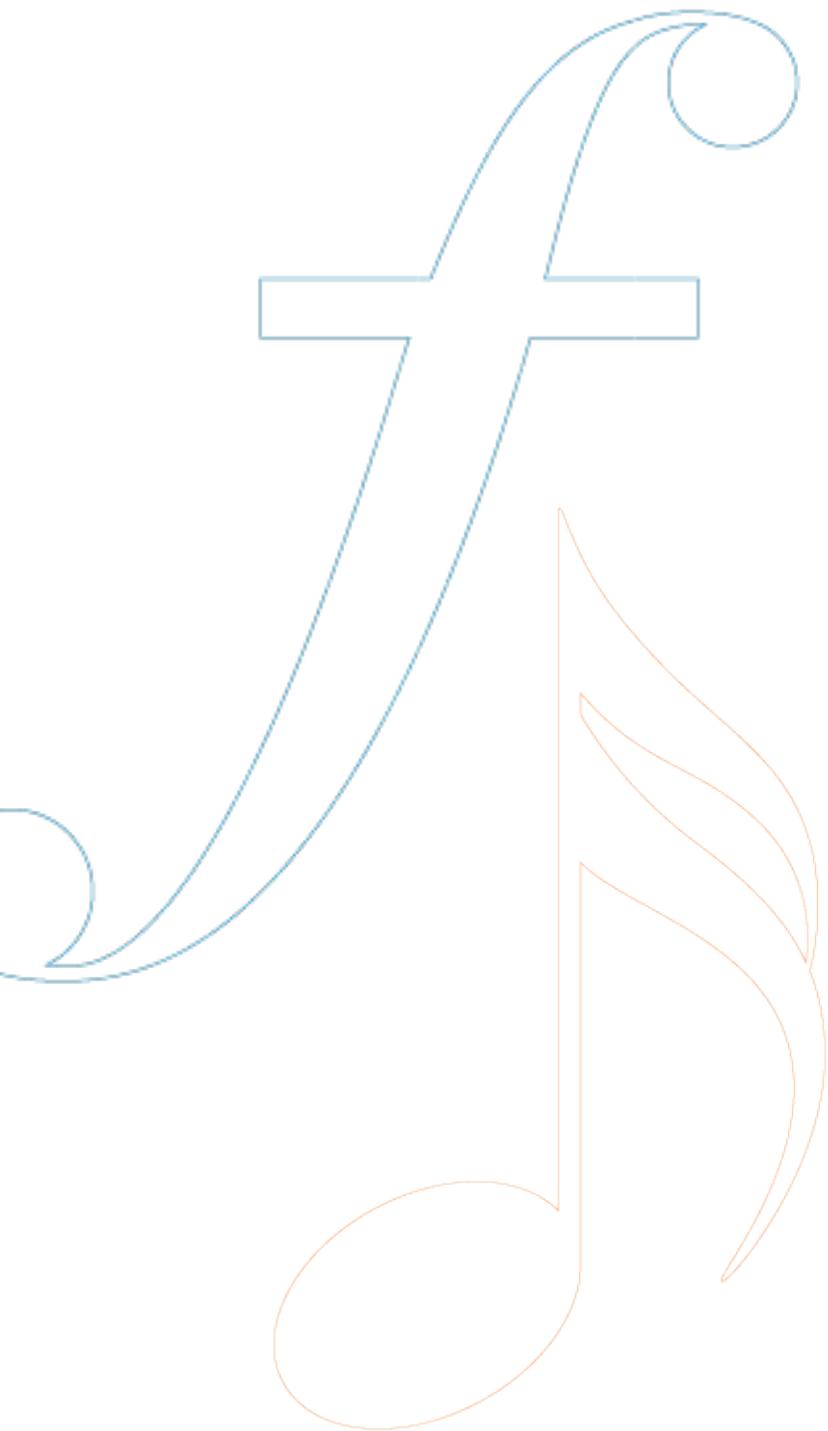


**GROW
WELL**



PARENT GUIDE

COMPREHENSIVE SYSTEM OF MUSIC STUDY





The Young Artists Conservatory of Music (YACM) is one of the most respected music education institutions in the region, providing a definitive standard of excellence for families who wish to provide their children with the opportunity to pursue their musical and human potential.

The mission of The Young Artists Conservatory of Music—to develop human potential through leadership in music and the arts—is based on the conviction that the arts are humanity's greatest means to achieve personal growth and social cohesion. Advancing the transformative effect that music and the arts have on society lies at the heart of everything YACM does.

For 28 years YACM students have enjoyed the many benefits of music study and carried these benefits into subsequent careers in a wide range of fields, including medicine, business, politics, education, science, aero-space, and sports. Others, such as Evan Losoya, Benjamin Mendiola, Russel Fry, Waverly Cook, Ethan Caro, Allie Knitter, Catie Whittet, and Senzal Ahmady have gone on to inspire us with their professional careers or community involvement in the arts.

“The curriculum for the study of music has been developed by The Royal Conservatory of Music (RCM) and is considered the foremost music education system in Canada, the United States, and many other countries around the world. Its broad use has served to bind together individuals from these nations with the thread of shared creative experiences. Similarly, RCM has developed a system of accreditation and online professional development for music teachers to strengthen the profession of music instruction and ensure a brighter future for music education.” (Royal Conservatory of Music, 2019).

The Young Artists Conservatory of Music has developed a range of programs to help a wide spectrum of diverse youth recognize their interest and aptitude in the performing arts including, **Solano Youth Chamber Orchestra, Solano Youth Theatre, Music Matters in Public School®, Fuse, Flare, Blaze Choruses, TnT and M80’s Rock Band, Smolder Jazz Band,** and the **Black-Tie Gala Concert**. YACM’s education programs **Little Arts, CORE Arts, Pro Arts, Solano Suzuki Strings,** and **Solano Band Arts** gives every family a place for the arts in the lives of their children. YACM is also a leader in the development of arts-based programs designed to address a range of social issues, including **Arts in Corrections, Arts in Recovery,** and **Inner Arts,** through merging the latest findings in neuroscience and the social sciences to address important health, social and development needs.

At its home in Vacaville, YACM offers classes and lessons for all ages and stages while administering programs throughout Solano County. YACM also presents a wide range of concerts, musicals, and arts events at performing spaces including, **The Vacaville Performing Arts Theater, Journey Downtown, The Downtown Theater, the Kroc Center Theater, The Saturday Club, The Vacaville Museum,** and our own intimate **Mendelssohn Hall** and **Tarrega Garden Venue**.



MESSAGE FROM THE FOUNDER

Founded on the conviction that the performing arts is the greatest means to develop human potential and social cohesion, we invest in the unlimited potential of youth and at-risk populations through exceptional arts education and significant performance experiences. Across a broad demographic spectrum of Solano residents, Young Artists Conservatory of Music programs are designed to cultivate musical talent, curate emotional well-being, while promoting regional participation in the arts. Since 1995, The Young Artists Conservatory of Music has realized that mission by adhering to 4 core values in everything we do: Excellence, Diligence Hope, and Community.

For us, “Excellence” demands our greatest investment of resources, striving for the standard of achievement that have the greatest power to transform our lives. “Diligence” empowers the steady, persistent, and earnest application of learning, practicing, rehearsing, and performing. At YACM that feeling of expectation and a desire to realize the truth of our potential is “Hope”. And finally, nothing is more valuable than the power of a “community” that identifies in and supports the mutual and transformative effects of music at YACM.

YACM exists to provide our community with the highest standard of formal musical training and performances, and to make those offerings available to as many families as possible. To ensure the quality, relevance, and effectiveness of our program we engage in an ongoing process of discovery. We recruit outstanding faculty who possess the education, expertise, and experience to develop childhood musicianship. We create equitable spaces for all children to access the benefit of music education. We integrate the most recent research on effective learning into our program. We adopt the trusted syllabus of **The Royal Conservatory of Music** establishing a standard of structured learning. To empower the reach of our program, we pursue a mixed funding platform that subsidizes tuition payments with grants and contributions.

As you pursue your studies, venture to teach others, volunteer, or contribute financially to YACM, you become an important partner in our values and the future of our community. I invite you to join the YACM vision for the development of musicianship and transformation of Solano’s young lives.

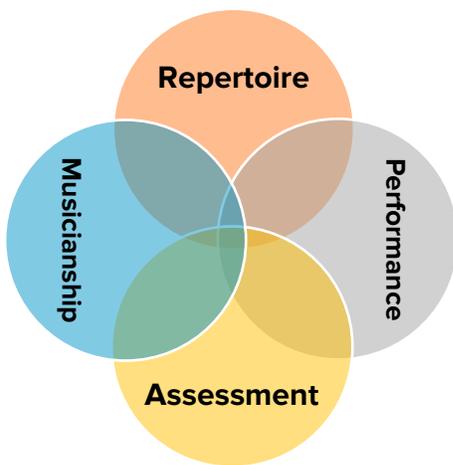
Wanda L. Cook

Founder and Executive Director
Young Artists Conservatory of Music

A COMPREHENSIVE SYSTEM OF MUSIC STUDY

At YACM we offer a formal approach to music study through a sequenced course of study from elementary through advanced levels. The integrated curriculum is anchored in four main areas.

- ♪ **Repertoire** - Educational resources that match your child's level and challenge their development
- ♪ **Musicianship** – Ensembles and Theory classes that help your child to understand the language of music while developing the quality of their music.
- ♪ **Assessments** – An objective standard that empowers your child's sense of accomplishment.
- ♪ **Performances** – Frequent opportunities for your child to develop the confidence to



With a focus on nurturing skills that develop intentional listening, goal-oriented focus, resilience, teamwork, and self-confidence, this comprehensive program allows students to recognize and pursue their potential.

Although not required, our assessments encourage participating students to track their progress and celebrate their accomplishments.

COMPONENTS OF WELL-ROUNDED MUSIC STUDY

Achieving musical proficiency requires essential skills balanced within a program of study that is sequentially structured and systematic. These four pillars allow students to cultivate the skills to fully experience music for their entire lifetimes.

PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT	AURAL DEVELOPMENT	MUSICAL LITERACY	CREATIVITY, IMAGINATION, EXPRESSION
Developing comfort in playing helps students secure a reliable technique, allowing them to flourish as musicians.	Developing critical listening skills contributes to successful self-assessment and brings a deeper appreciation of music.	The study of music theory leads to the acquisition of skills that empower students to learn music efficiently and independently.	Studying an instrument or voice nurtures creativity and imagination, helping students discover their innate artistry.

YACM INSTRUMENTAL AND VOCAL PROGRAMS

LITTLE ARTS

AGES 4-5 | 75 Minutes a Week

This gentle and nurturing start for young children introduces them to fundamental musical principles while accessing their natural musicianship. Because your child was born musical their brain is at its most musically impressionable state.

- ♪ Weekly 30-minute Private Lesson
- ♪ Weekly 45-minute Group Musicianship Class
- ♪ Seasonal Performances for Qualifying Students

CHOOSE	♪	General Music
	♪	Piano
	♪	Violin
	♪	Percussion
	♪	Cello
	♪	Singing

CORE ARTS

AGES 6+ | 90 – 120 Minutes a Week

The core of formal musical training at YACM integrates a comprehensive structure of learning with experienced faculty in the development of musicianship. With a focus on nurturing creativity and developing self-confidence, our program allows students to recognize and pursue their potential. Our integrated curriculum encompasses repertoire from classical to contemporary, as well as etudes, ear tests, sight reading, technique, and theory for over 20 instruments, voice, and speech arts and drama.

- ♪ Weekly 30 or 60-minute Private Lesson
- ♪ Weekly 60-minute Group Musicianship Class
- ♪ Seasonal Performances
- ♪ Annual Assessments and Recognition

CHOOSE	♪	Piano
	♪	Violin
	♪	Percussion
	♪	Cello
	♪	Voice
	♪	Guitar
	♪	Ukulele
	♪	Drumkit
	♪	Clarinet
	♪	Flute
	♪	Saxophone
	♪	Trumpet
♪	Trombone	

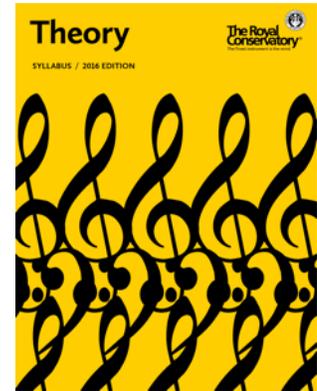
PRO ARTS

AGES 8+ | 2 – 5 HRS. Week

For families who want an immersive music education, PRO-Arts is a membership upgrade that bundles access to additional learning, rehearsing, and performances for a reduced fee. Customize your child's classes by adding additional Musicianship Classes or Onstage Ensembles (Solano Youth Theatre Excluded).

MUSICIANSHIP AND ENSEMBLE COURSES

At YACM Musicianship is understood as the individual skill and artistic quality of a student musician. We believe a student's musicianship is minimally a product of their in-born talent and maximally a result of their training, ensemble, and performance development. In other words, musicianship is the intersection between what a student understands and how that understanding impacts the attraction of their music.



Through a well-sequenced path of study, YACM students are introduced to music theory through courses that combine applied musicianship, music theory, and ensemble experiences.

The study of theory is an essential component of well-rounded musical training and is intended to support the practical studies to enhance and enrich the musical experience. The Young Artists Conservatory of Music adopts the curriculum provided by The Royal Conservatory.

“This theory curriculum provides an effective, well-sequenced path for developing musical understanding and literacy. Theory studies begin with an introduction to the basic elements of music notation at the Elementary levels and culminate with structural and harmonic analysis at the Advanced levels. Students are strongly encouraged to include the study of theory at every level...” (Royal Conservatory of Music Theory Syllabus, 2019).

YACM's Elementary Courses combine musicianship, theory, and group ensemble rehearsal to jump start practical understanding and feed motivation.

Elementary Musicianship Levels – CORE Arts Members

Elementary Levels are best for students with less than 2 years of formal private lesson training.

Chorus A, Theory Preparatory – Theory 1

-Ages 6-10, Open to All Students, Best for Voice, Piano, Guitar, Ukulele, Drum Students

Chorus B, Theory 2

-Ages 11+, Open to All Students, Best for Voice, Piano, Guitar, Ukulele, Drum Students

Piano Ensemble A, Theory 1

-Ages 9-11, Open to Piano Students

Piano Ensemble B, Theory 2-3

-Ages 12+, Open to Piano Students

Rhythm and Rock, Theory 1

-Ages 12+, Open to Guitar, Ukulele, Drum Students

Jazz Arts, Theory 2-3

-Ages 12+, Open to Instrumentalists with 2 or more equivalent years of skill

Sectionals, Theory 1-3

-Ages 6+ Open to Instrumentalists as offered.



ONSTAGE ENSEMBLES



Benjamin Mendiola (16) 2016: Gershwin "Rhapsody in Blue", Symphony of Northern California

Students who reach a required level of achievement are invited to audition for placement in an ONSTAGE Ensemble. These ensembles prepare performance pieces requiring more exact skills and performance confidence. All ONSTAGE Ensembles (except Solano Youth Theatre) may be bundled into a PRO-Arts membership for significant savings.



Top Left: SYCO 2019 Spring Concert, Top Middle; Ashley Jones (18), Black Tie Gala Concert 2019, Far Right: Mario Denato (11) "Mary Poppins", Bottom Left: TnT and SYCO 2019 TSO Cover: Holiday Harmonies, Bottom Middle: 2004 Themes from Phantom of the Opera-Robert Dornaus & Brianna Leary.

PERFORMANCES

Frequent performances are an integral part of developing musicianship. YACM provides CORE-Arts students the opportunity to perform seasonally.

- ♪ October: Treats and Tunes
- ♪ December or January: Holiday Harmonies
- ♪ March: Spring Fling
- ♪ May: Melody Makers

CORE Arts students are eligible to perform solos by ensuring their piece(s) are memorized 3-4 weeks prior to the performance. Students are invited to perform duets and chamber ensembles as well. We encourage teachers to prepare their students for performances often because frequency builds confidence.



Ethan Caro (12), Tarrega, "Lagrima" 2018, Black Tie Gala Concert

WHY PERFORM?

Our aim at YACM is to provide students with various performance opportunities as an integral part of their musical development. Our indicators show that the more likely students are to attend ensembles, and perform frequently, the less likely they are to quit lessons and the more likely they are to succeed in other areas of life.



Alex Toro-Quinones (11), Beethoven "Sonata in F, OP.2, NO.1"
Black Tie Gala Concert 2018

Participating in frequent performances reinforces a music student's sense of personal accomplishment which results in strengthening their **self-confidence**. Music students also watch their peers and gain a sense of belonging that challenges and inspires them. Music students develop a **goal-oriented focus**, and **emotional resiliency** when they are preparing to overcome challenges required to perform. Finally, each performance opportunity constructs a personal narrative that says,

"I can do it", "It wasn't as scary as I thought", "I belong to a group", "Now I know what I could have done better", "I want to be like so-and-so", "Practicing better, really helped", "My family is proud of me", "I am proud of me."

HOW TO PREPARE TO PERFORM

- ♪ Memorize early
- ♪ Practice starting in other sections other than the beginning, **BY MEMORY**
- ♪ Use the Metronome
- ♪ Practice with feeling and artistic expression
- ♪ Attend Rehearsals
- ♪ Dress the Part: At YACM we honor the time and effort it takes to prepare for a confident performance, by mirroring that time and effort in dress.

ASSESSMENTS – CERTIFICATE PROGRAM

Following the COVID-19 pandemic, YACM will renew our assessment schedule in phases. YACM adopts the assessment standards of the **Royal Conservatory of Music**. These examinations provide a national standard for students, parents and teachers to track and measure progress and achievements. Preparing for and successfully completing an examination builds self-confidence and helps students develop a sense of pride.

Instructors are encouraged to ensure their students participate in regular assessments. Preparatory students who are not yet ready for RCM Level 1-10 literature, may follow RCM Preparatory assessment standards by assimilating the substitute material listed in the syllabus.

In recognition of the accomplishments achieved in assessments and throughout the year, YACM will hold an annual awards ceremony.

TIPS TO SUPPORT THE STUDY OF MUSIC

PARENTS

- ♪ Communicate regularly with both your child and teacher
- ♪ Support your child during practice sessions either as a coach or an engaged listener
- ♪ Encourage improvisation and student-driven exploration of the instrument

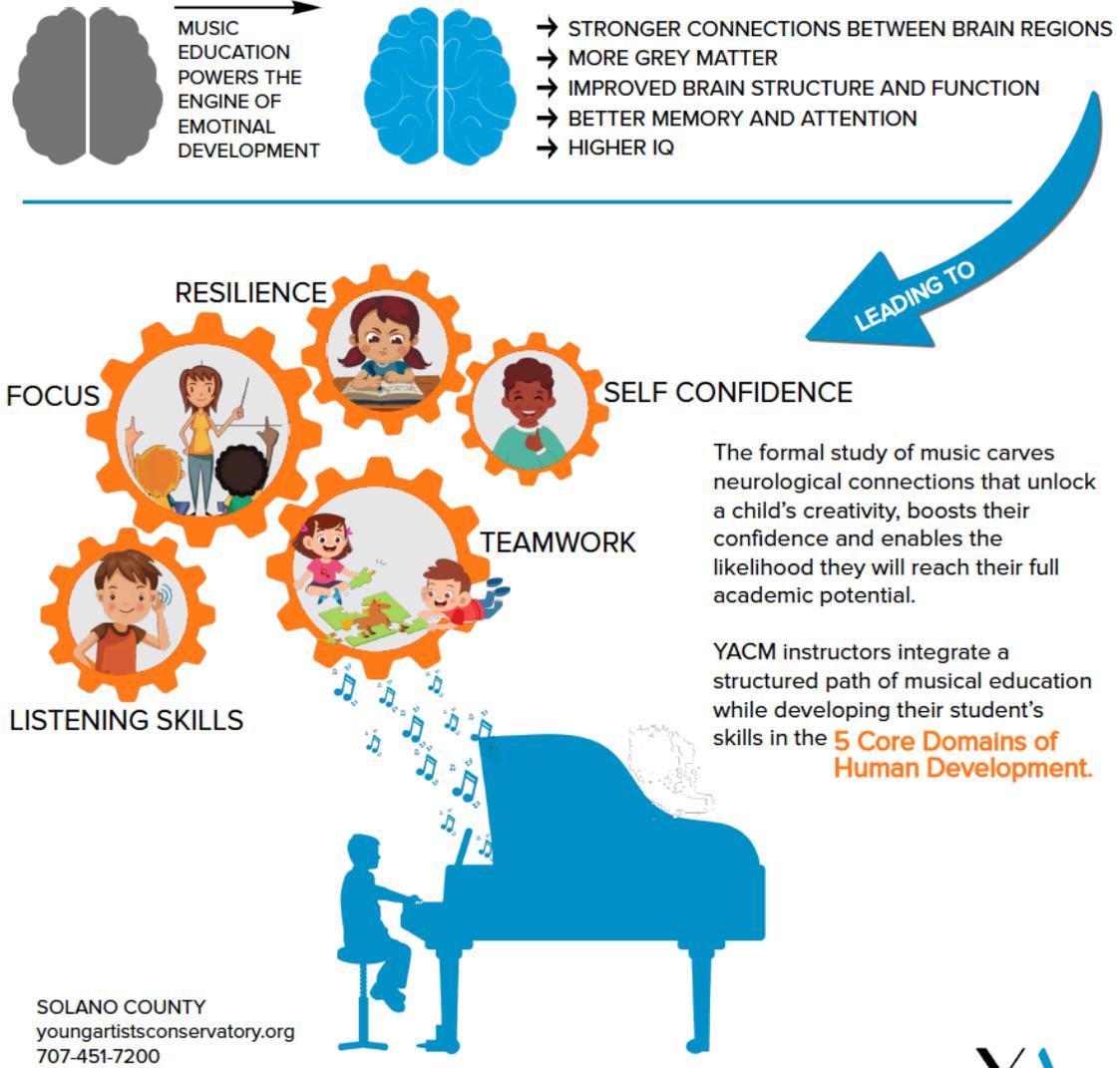
STUDENTS AND PARENTS

- ♪ Create time for consistent, dedicated practice
- ♪ Collaborate with your teacher to establish achievable short- and long-term goals
- ♪ Celebrate success and accomplishments!

FIVE DOMAINS OF HEALTHY DEVELOPMENT

QUALITY MUSIC EDUCATION ADVANCES EMOTIONAL WELL BEING

By stimulating the most important areas of personal and social development



1. Sylvain Moreno et al. Musical Training Influences Linguistic Abilities in Eight-year-old Children: More Evidence for Brain Plasticity. *Cerebellum Cortex*, (Volume 19, Issue 3, 2009)

2. C.M. Johnson and J.E. Menzies. Examination of Relationships between Participants in School Music Programs of Differing Quality and Standardized Test Results. *Journal of Research in Music Education* (Winter 2000), Volume 54, Number 4

3. E. Glenn Schellenberg. Music Lessons Enhance IQ. *Psychological Science*, 19)

4. E.M. George, D. Coch. Music training and working memory: An ERP study. *J. Neuropsychologia*, Vol. 49, Issue 5, April 2011

5. Gottfried Schlaug. The Brain of Musicians – A Model for Functional and Structural Adaptation

THE 5 DOMAINS OF HEALTHY DEVELOPMENT

As an arts development organization we also find ourselves as a child development organization. Turns out, the skills young people need to develop musicianship are the same skills they need to succeed in their academics, social structures, and careers. At YACM we call these skills the **5 CORE DOMAINS OF HUMAN DEVELOPMENT**. We aim to intentionally incorporate the 5 Domains into every aspect of music education.

- ♪ **Intentional Listening**
 - The ability to selectively listen to that which is important at the moment
- ♪ **Goal Orientated Focus**
 - Understanding a goal as presented and utilizing the best skills to reach the goal
- ♪ **Emotional Resilience**
 - Learning and using coping skills that empower the ability to recognize how to achieve accomplishment instead of giving up
- ♪ **Teamwork and Empathy**
 - Recognizing and demonstrating the value of others in relationship with oneself in a partnered activity
- ♪ **Healthy Self Confidence**
 - The ability to recognize one's skills to empower their readiness to take a self-perceived risk
 - Conversely, the ability to recognize when one should not take a perceived risk

A HARDER WORKING BRAIN

Children who study music at YACM are enrolled in a quality music program that advances emotional well-being. The process of music education stimulates the most important areas of personal and social development. The areas of the brain that process music require strong connections between brain regions. The neural auditory delivery systems create a super-highway to make these connections. By doing so, this neural activity leads to the **5 CORE DOMAINS OF HEALTHY DEVELOPMENT**.

INTENTIONAL INTERGRATION

At YACM our Teaching Artists are expert musicians and music educators. We understand the cognitive and emotional benefits of personal musicianship and we deliberately integrate a structured path of learning with the development of the **5 CORE DOMAINS OF HEALTHY DEVELOPMENT**.

In 2023, YACM will roll out our 4th edition proprietary Practice Guide. By working with certified Music Therapists and utilizing the latest research in neuroscience, this new resource will intentionally integrate the **5 CORE DOMAINS** into a weekly music practice plan. YACM students will not only track their musical development they will see their development in the **5 CORE DOMAINS**.

DIGITAL CONNECTIONS

We love being in person. We value the human connection as the primary engine powering human capacity. In our digital age, keeping our families engaged and informed is vital to the quality of our mutual participation. Here are the digital tools you need to stay informed

♪ **Website:** www.youngartistsconservatory.org

♪ **Parent / Student Portal powered by My Music Staff:** When you enroll at YACM you will receive a log-in invitation to gain access to your

- YACM Schedule / Lesson Locations
- Studio Communication
- Account and Billing
- Online Resources as Offered by your Instructor
 - Repertoire List
 - Lending Resources
 - Practice Time Log



♪ **The Noteworthy Newsletter:** This monthly newsletter provides updates on YACM news, upcoming events, educational resources, and community cultural events to help your family stay connected and engaged in the Arts.



- Subscription: While you are enrolled at YACM please do not unsubscribe from this publication as this is our primary source of mass communication

♪ **Facebook:** [yacmusic.solano.org](https://www.facebook.com/yacmusic.solano.org)

♪ **Instagram:** [yac.music](https://www.instagram.com/yac.music)

♪ **Royal Conservatory of Music:** <https://www.rcmusic.com/>: For access to curriculum, and other learning sources.

- **Digital Learning Links:** <https://www.rcmusic.com/learning/digital-learning>

UNLOCK YOUR CHILD'S POTENTIAL

Becoming a musician is about entering a world that expands your horizons and gives you a better understanding of yourself and others. Making music for the sake of music is a transformative experience because music is beautiful and emotional and challenging, and engaging. Understanding the complexity of a Beethoven Symphony or the innovational risk of Bernstein's use of the Tri-tone enriches a young person's appetite for new and informative experiences.

The study of music provides a wonderful avenue to help your child develop confidence and boosts their creativity. Music students are more likely to reach their full academic potential. Cognitive benefits include better memory and attention skills, enhanced language skills, improved brain function, and higher IQ scores. Music students are more likely to play Chopin, Sing Puccini, perform in an orchestra, jam in a band, and listen harder to the John William's Star Wars Main Title.



Madison Brown (17), Straus "Zueignung, Die Nacht, Morgen" Black Tie Gala Concert 2016

"Music can improve your child's abilities in learning and other non-music tasks, but it's important to understand that music does not make one smarter. As Pruett explains, the many intrinsic benefits to music education include being disciplined, learning a skill, being part of the music world, managing performance, being part of something you can be proud of, and even struggling with a less than perfect teacher."

"It's important not to oversell how smart music can make you," Pruett says. "Music makes your kid interesting and happy, and smart will come later. It enriches his or her appetite for things that bring you pleasure and for the friends you meet."

The primary reasons to provide your child with a musical education should be to help them become more musical, more interactive, more expressive, less digital, and to appreciate all aspects of the process while they make the musical community their own.

<https://www.pbs.org/parents/thrive/the-benefits-of-music-education>

START YOUR JOURNEY TODAY



YOUNG ARTISTS CONSERVATORY OF MUSIC

LEARN MORE

Learn how unlocking your child's potential through quality music education lies at the heart of everything we do.

youngartistsconservatory.org

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ADMISSIONS

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INTEREST FORM



yacmusic.solano.org



[yac.music](https://www.instagram.com/yac.music)

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Benjamin Mendiola, Beethoven's "Tempest", 2015