



Richardson Symphony Orchestra History

For 55 years, the RSO has carried out its mission to inspire, educate and excite our audience with exceptional musical performances. Founded in 1961, the Richardson Symphony has grown with the Dallas-Fort Worth (DFW) metroplex and is recognized as one of the premiere orchestras of the region. It is the resident symphony of the Charles W. Eisemann Center for Performing Arts and offers a variety of classical and pops concerts each season, programmed to appeal to the varied audiences of the area. The orchestra is comprised of 60 professional musicians and is led by Maestro Clay Couturiaux, who just completed his fourth year with the RSO. The orchestra is supported by a dedicated Board of Directors, the Richardson Symphony League and a variety of community volunteers.

Throughout its history, the orchestra has been known for its innovative programming and as a showplace for brilliant up-and-coming talent. Many notable artists have made their DFW symphony debut with the RSO, including cellist Yo-Yo Ma, violinist Nadia Solaerno-Sonnenberg and pianist Behzod Abduraimov.

In addition to the critically acclaimed season performances, the Richardson Symphony is also widely regarded as a leader in education and community outreach programs. The Ann and Charles Eisemann International Young Artists Competition annually draws talented young performers from around the world who compete for cash prizes and the opportunity to perform with the orchestra at one of our concerts. The orchestra is also actively involved in enriching the Fine Arts education of Richardson Independent School District students, private school students and home-school students through our Symphony Days program.

Symphony Days Program overview

The RSO Symphony Days program introduces approximately 4,000 elementary students to the world of classical music each year. The first stage consists of music teachers incorporating a unit on the orchestra into their curriculum each September. The second stage takes place over a three-week period in October as RSO musicians visit music classrooms to provide students the opportunity to become acquainted with their instruments through sight, sound, brief performances, questions and answers. The third stage is the culmination of the program, in which students attend one of three concerts at the Charles W. Eisemann Center for Performing Arts. This concert is designed to showcase the development of orchestral music from the chamber music of Bach to a full orchestra of the present.

The program includes J.S. Bach's "Air," W.A. Mozart's Overture to "Marriage of Figaro," Beethoven's finale from "Symphony #5 in C minor", Tchaikovsky's "Waltz of the Flowers" from "The Nutcracker," a selection from Stravinsky's "Firebird," John William's "Theme from Star Wars" and Pharrell William's "Happy." Our conductor wears various wigs, hats and props as he "becomes" each composer - adding an element of fun and visual cues to help the students differentiate each segment of the performance.

In November 2014, we added a third concert to the program in order to accommodate the growth of the Richardson Independent School District and to include several private schools and home-school groups.

Richardson Symphony Orchestra 399 West Campbell Road, Ste. 200A Richardson, TX 75080

PHONE: 972-234-4195 **FAX:** 972-238-7514