



Symphony Days Program Overview

The Richardson Symphony Orchestra is devoted to artistic excellence and to educating the next generation of Fine Arts patrons. For over 35 years, the RSO Symphony Days program has introduced approximately 4,000 Richardson Independent School District students to the world of classical music on an annual basis. Over a three-week period in October, musicians from the Richardson Symphony visit classrooms and provide students with the opportunity to become acquainted with their instruments through sight, sound, games, questions and answers. This extension of what is offered in the music classroom greatly enhances the connection to music and affords the students with an experience that greatly enriches their Fine Arts education.

Following the classroom visits, students attend a concert at the Charles W. Eisemann Center for the Performing Arts, 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, Clay Couturiaux, 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. In November 2017, we are adding a STEAM component to the concerts in order to emphasize the connections between math, science and music. This is being developed in collaboration with faculty at the University of Texas at Dallas.

The students primarily served through this program are the third graders in RISD. The demographics for RISD are as follows:

We are continually seeking additional sources of funding as we expand this educational program to meet the growing needs of the school district and to include private schools and home-school groups. Thank you for your consideration!

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