

DACAMERA Young Artist Program

Program Information
2025 - 2026



DACAMERA

Transformative Musical Experiences

DACAMERA Young Artist Program

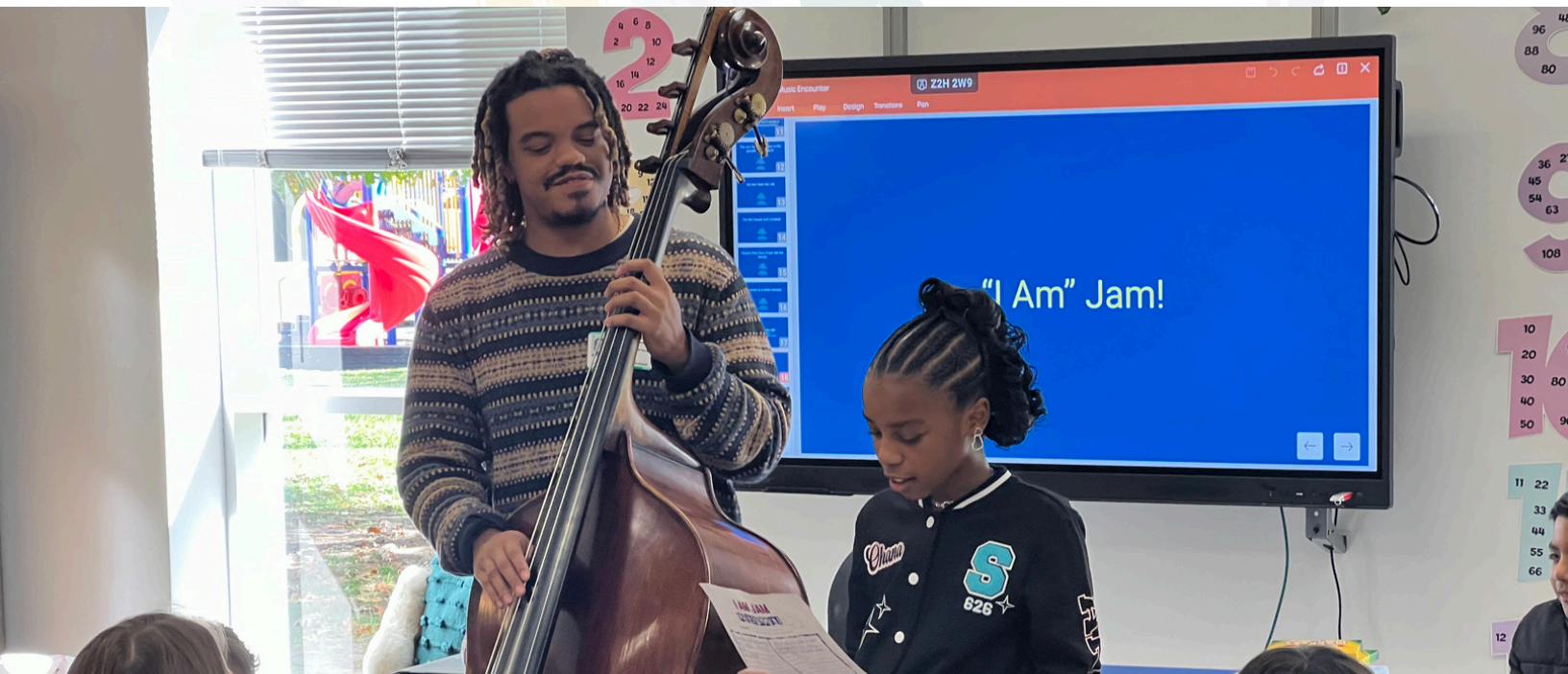
The DACAMERA Young Artist Program is a fellowship program for emerging professional instrumentalists, vocalists, and composers. The goal of the program is to encourage musicians to develop the skills necessary to become passionate, forward-thinking and community-focused "citizen artists;" that is, artists who reimagine the traditional notions of their music-making and embrace the role of contributing to society through the transformative power of their art and proactive social engagement.

General Information

Candidates for the DACAMERA Young Artist Program are Houston-based emerging professionals who:

- Are interested in performing solo, chamber, and jazz repertoire throughout the Houston community
- Are interested in working with teachers in public schools to implement lessons that utilize music to enrich the study of core-foundation subjects
- Have completed at least a bachelor's degree in music
- Are 30 years old or under
- Are able to commit to in-person visits to Houston schools, perform in concerts throughout the Houston community, and participate in career development workshops*

*The Young Artist schedule is designed to allow participants the flexibility to perform as freelancers, maintain a private studio etc.



Education Training and Experience

Young Artists lead DACAMERA's flagship education program - Music Encounters. These lessons are part of an arts integration curriculum that uses music as a vehicle to teach lessons in foundation subjects including language arts, math, science, social studies, and more. Music Encounters are developed in consultation with public and private school administrators and classroom teachers and are aligned with TEKS (Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills) standards. Rather than large-scale assemblies in a school's cafeteria, these lessons occur in classrooms, allowing students individual interactions with professional musicians, and serve to augment the teaching and learning that is already occurring in the classroom.



Performance Opportunities

In addition to the work in schools, DACAMERA Young Artists also program and perform in a wide range of free community concerts.

These programs frequently occur in non-traditional performance venues (libraries, hospitals, and community centers) and are designed to engage audiences that often do not have the ability to attend a traditional concert. DACAMERA Young Artists perform on the A Little Day Music concert series - Houston's longest running free concert series. In addition, we program many performances at The Menil Collection and Museum of Fine Arts Houston, showcasing innovative programming in relation to specific galleries and artwork. DACAMERA Young Artists regularly perform in Harris County Public Libraries and other locations throughout the season.



Career Development

- Career-development workshops (typically occurring on select Monday evenings and Saturday mornings) with industry-leading professionals
- Experience in implementing educational arts-integration and curriculum-based lessons
- Performance and programming opportunities for a unique collection of concert themes
- Potential participation in masterclasses or discussions with DACAMERA guest artists and leading Houston musicians

Other Benefits

- Per-service fee resulting in an average season stipend of \$3,000 - \$7,000
- Professional headshots
- Complimentary tickets to all DACAMERA subscription concerts (subject to availability)

Timeline for Applicants

Wednesday, August 20, 2025 by 12:00 pm
Saturday, August 23 & Saturday, August 30
Thursday, August 28, 2025
Friday, September 5, 2025

All applications due
Live auditions
Interviews for composer finalists
All applicants notified of status

There is no cost to apply.

If you have any questions, please contact Hunter O'Brien, Director of Education and Community Initiatives at hobrien@dacamera.com or call (713) 524-7601 ext. 19, or Nicole Hunt, Education and Community Initiatives Manager at nhunt@dacamera.com or call (713) 524-7601 ext. 15.



Application Process for Classical Instrumentalists and Vocalists

Please submit the following materials by **Wednesday, August 20, 2025, at 12:00pm** via email to YAP@dacamera.com:

- Application
- One-page cover letter
- Résumé
- Repertoire list (solo and chamber music)
- Letter of recommendation written by a teacher, mentor, etc. (letter should be sent directly from the reference to YAP@dacamera.com)

Audition Requirements for instrumentalists and singers:

Each audition will last approximately 15 minutes and will follow this general format:

- Excerpt One (5-6 minutes)
 - Brief introduction of the work as if you are presenting it to a class of 25 third graders
 - A 4-5 minute excerpt of the work
- Excerpt Two (5-6 minutes)
 - Brief introduction of the work as if you are presenting it to an experienced concert audience
 - A 4-5 minute excerpt of the work
- Interview (4-5 minutes)

Please note:

- Applicants are encouraged to select repertoire that is relevant to the Young Artist Program
 - (Example: chamber music and solo repertoire instead of orchestral excerpts)
- The two excerpts must be of contrasting styles
- Applicants are expected to supply their own accompanist as needed



Application Process for Jazz Instrumentalists and Vocalists

Please submit the following materials by **Wednesday, August 20, 2025, at 12:00pm** via email to YAP@dacamera.com:

- Application
- One-page cover letter
- Résumé
- Letter of recommendation written by a teacher, mentor, etc (letter should be sent directly from the reference to YAP@dacamera.com)

Audition Requirements for jazz combo:

Each audition will last approximately 15 minutes and will follow this general format:

- Set One (5-6 minutes)
 - Brief introduction of the work as if you are presenting it to a class of 25 third graders
 - A 4-5 minute excerpt of the work
- Set Two (5-6 minutes)
 - Brief introduction of the work as if you are presenting it to an experienced concert audience
 - A 4-5 minute excerpt of the work
- Interview (4-5 minutes)

Please note:

- Applicants are encouraged to perform selections from jazz repertoire with contrasting tempos and styles, which include at least two choruses of improvisation



Application Process for Composers

Please submit the following materials by **Wednesday, August 20, 2025, at 12:00pm** via email to YAP@dacamera.com:

- Application
- One-page cover letter
- Résumé
- Works list (solo and chamber music)
- Work samples (scores and audio recordings)
- Letter of recommendation written by a teacher, mentor, etc (letter should be sent directly from the reference to YAP@dacamera.com)

Audition process for composers:

Please select two contrasting works that are most representative of your output. At least one of the works should be an example of chamber music for more than one musician. For each work, please include the following:

- Complete score (PDF file)
- Complete recording (standard audio formats accepted)

During the initial screening process, judges will only listen to one minute of each work. Please select the minute of music which you would like them to hear and indicate where the excerpt begins and ends on the application form.

Finalists will be selected for a final interview. The interview will follow the following format:

- Short personal introduction
- Briefly introduce the work as if you are presenting it to a class of 25 third-graders
- Briefly introduce the second work as if you are presenting it to an experienced concert audience
- Conclude with a 4-5 minute interview

