

DACAMERA Young Artist Program

Program Information
2026 - 2027



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 leading educational programs that utilize music to enrich the study of core foundation subjects
- Have completed at least a bachelor’s degree in music
- Are 29 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

DACAMERA Young Artists lead a wide range of educational programs in Houston-area schools and community spaces.

Music Encounters

DACAMERA's Music Encounters program teaches core subjects through a musical lens, establishing creative and interactive learning environments. Led by members of the DACAMERA Young Artist Program, each lesson brings music directly to students while aligning with national academic standards and Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS).



DACAMERA Young Artist Residencies

Young Artists implement drumming programs in Houston-area schools, branches of the Harris County Public Library system, and residential facilities of the Harris County Juvenile Probation Department. Additional residencies include programs for students with neurological differences at The HUB Houston and Music Encounters residencies in local schools.



Performance Opportunities

In addition to the work in schools and community spaces, DACAMERA Young Artists program and perform in a wide range of free community concerts. These programs frequently occur in unique performance venues and engage audiences that often do not have the ability to attend a traditional concert.



A Little Day Music

Houston's longest-running free concert series. A Little Day Music is a series of free concerts presented at noon on the first Wednesday of the month, October through May, in the Wortham Theater Center's Grand Foyer.

Stop, Look and Listen!

DACAMERA and The Menil Collection present innovative programs on The Menil Collection campus in response to specific galleries and artwork.

Pop-Up Concerts at Houston Museums

DACAMERA is well known for connecting music with visual art, and has long-standing partnerships with the Menil Collection, The Museum of Fine Arts, Houston, Rothko Chapel, and other institutions.

Additional partnerships bring Young Artist performances to branches of the Houston Public Library system, Houston Methodist, MD Anderson, 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

Additional 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

Friday, September 11, by 12:00 pm

Thursday, September 17

Friday, September 18, and Saturday, September 19

Friday, September 25

All applications due

Interviews for composer finalists

Live auditions

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 | (713) 524-7601 ext. 19, or Danielle Jaundoo, Education and Community Initiatives Manager, at djaundoo@dacamera.com | (713) 524-7601 ext. 15



Application Process for Classical Instrumentalists and Vocalists

Please submit the following materials by **Friday, September 11, 2026, at 12:00 pm** via email to YAP@dacamera.com:

- Application
- One-page cover letter detailing your interest in the program and relevant experience
- Resume
- 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 vocalists:

Each audition will last approximately 15 minutes and will follow the format below:

- 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) - Be prepared to express why you are interested in the program and why you would be an ideal candidate

Please note:

- The two excerpts must be of contrasting styles
- Repertoire choices should be relevant to the Young Artist Program (i.e., sonatas, chamber works). Please avoid concerti if possible. No orchestral excerpts.
- Repertoire should be performed as written, and applicants are expected to supply their own accompanist as needed



Application Process for Jazz Instrumentalists and Vocalists

Please submit the following materials by **Friday, September 11, 2026, at 12:00 pm** via email to YAP@dacamera.com:

- Application
- One-page cover letter detailing your interest in the program and relevant experience
- Resume
- 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 artists:

Each audition will last approximately 15 minutes and will follow the format below:

- 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) - Be prepared to express why you are interested in the program and why you would be an ideal candidate

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 **Friday, September 11, 2026, at 12:00 pm** via email to YAP@dacamera.com:

- Application
- One-page cover letter detailing your interest in the program and relevant experience
- Resume
- 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 best represent your compositional voice. 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.

Composer finalists will be selected for an in-person interview. The interview will follow the format below:

- A short personal introduction
- Brief introduction of the first work as if you are presenting it to a class of 25 third graders
 - A 4-5 minute excerpt of the work is played
- Brief introduction of the second work as if you are presenting it to an experienced concert audience
 - A 4-5 minute excerpt of the work is played
- Interview (4-5 minutes) - Be prepared to express why you are interested in the program and why you would be an ideal candidate

