



*Celebrating Our Thirteenth Season of Excellence in Chamber Music Education and Performance*



***Virtuosi of Houston*** is a program unlike any other fine arts program for young musicians in the country. A 501(c) 3 organization, ***Virtuosi*** was formed in 1996 to increase education and performance opportunities leading to a music profession for Houston's exceptionally gifted middle to high school age musicians and to bring an expanded repertoire of chamber works to Houston audiences. The chamber group is smaller (55) than a typical symphony orchestra, allowing these exceptional musicians to experience increased confidence, leadership, responsibility and skill through individual attention from two world-class conductors. Leadership is provided by Franz Anton Krager, Professor of Conducting and Director of Orchestras, and Andrzej Grabiec, Professor of Violin, both faculty members at the University of Houston, Moores School of Music, and artistic directors and conductors of the ***Virtuosi of Houston***.

***Virtuosi of Houston*** gives students the foundation and skills they need for their future in a career in music. Our vision is that someday they will return to Texas as performers, educators, and arts advocates to give their expertise back to the community that helped develop them as young artists. ***Virtuosi of Houston*** graduates attend many of the leading music schools and conservatories in the United States.



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## **AUDITION APPLICATION 2008-2009 SEASON**

***Virtuosi of Houston*** is beginning its thirteenth season this fall. Auditions for the Orchestra are being held on Saturday, April 26, 2008 from 4 pm to 9 pm, Friday August 22, 2008 from 4 pm to 8 pm, Saturday, August 23, 2008 from 9 am to 5 pm. We are inviting serious musicians to audition for this high level Chamber Orchestra. ***Virtuosi of Houston*** is the only youth chamber orchestra in Houston. The rehearsals do not conflict with other youth orchestras. Several members of ***Virtuosi of Houston*** also participate in other music groups in Houston. There are only 30 rehearsal in the whole season. The Artistic Directors and Conductors of the ***Virtuosi of Houston*** Andrzej Grabiec and Franz Krager, both faculty members at University of Houston, Moores School of Music guide and plan the program of the orchestra and conduct the rehearsals. The young musicians have the advantage of studying with two professors of music who have the acumen of many years of music education between them.

***Virtuosi of Houston*** is proud of its members and strives to give them the recognition that they deserve. Our performances are at the Hobby Center for the Performing Arts, Zilkha Hall, and our annual fundraising Gala concert and dinner at a prestigious Houston Hotel. The programs are professionally designed, printed and include a detailed picture biography of each student member.

The ***Virtuosi of Houston*** rehearse 5 weeks prior to each performance on Tuesdays and Thursdays in our Studio from 6:30 pm to 9:30 pm with a 20-minute break for supper, which is provided. There are a total of 30 rehearsals in the season over 15 weeks. We work on the theory that absorbing instruction in an intense, short period of time produces an end product that is excellent. Our Season therefore is relatively short in the hours expended in rehearsals but with intense instruction and as the orchestra has two conductors, both professors at a major university school of music the musical education standard is very high. While one is conducting, the other is observing, correcting playing and performance techniques e.g. fingering etc.

### ***Program Events***

A typical ***Virtuosi of Houston*** season includes three concert performances; one in the fall, one in spring and one at the end of the season in May. ***Virtuosi of Houston*** sponsors an Annual Concerto Competition. Scholarships, totaling \$10,250.00 (we do not divide the money if there are two winners in the same category we give each one the full amount) are awarded to the winners of the competition. Scholarship awards can only be applied to private lesson costs, instrument purchases, summer music camp expenses, and college or music school tuition. ***Virtuosi of Houston*** can also provide financial assistance for students of ***Virtuosi of Houston*** if they meet the ***Virtuosi of Houston*** Board of Directors financial assistance need-based program criteria.



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### ***Code of Ethics***

All ***Virtuosi of Houston*** members are expected:

- To be active members of their respective school orchestra or band.
- To demonstrate their commitment by attending all the rehearsals for the entire concert season; three unexcused absences may result in dismissal from the orchestra; in case of direct conflict with a school event, the school event will always take precedence. All absences must be called in or emailed to the ***Virtuosi*** office by 2 pm the day of the absence.
- To individually practice their respective parts and come prepared to rehearsals to the best of their ability.
- To demonstrate the highest standards of personal integrity with respect to one another, to the Artistic Directors, and to representatives of the management, the staff, volunteers, and the Board of Directors of the organization.

***Virtuosi of Houston*** members are promised:

- Many exciting musical experiences.
- An atmosphere of mutual respect and professionalism.
- Music Directors who will fully share their knowledge and expertise during rehearsals and concerts.





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# Credit Card Form

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Signature: \_\_\_\_\_



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**APPLICATION FORM  
2008-2009 SEASON  
STUDENT INFORMATION:**

**PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY**

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

INSTRUMENT: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_ CITY: \_\_\_\_\_ STATE: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

HOME PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_ CELL PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

E-MAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

SCHOOL NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ GRADE (FALL 2007): \_\_\_\_\_ AGE (FALL 2007): \_\_\_\_\_

**PARENT INFORMATION:**

MOTHER'S NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

MOTHER'S ADDRESS (IF DIFFERENT FROM ABOVE):

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_ CITY: \_\_\_\_\_ STATE: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

HOME PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_ WORK PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_ CELL: \_\_\_\_\_

E-MAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

FATHER'S NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

FATHER'S ADDRESS (IF DIFFERENT FROM ABOVE):

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_ CITY: \_\_\_\_\_ STATE: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

HOME PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_ WORK PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_ CELL: \_\_\_\_\_

E-MAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

**MUSIC EDUCATION:**

NUMBER OF YEARS MUSICAL STUDY: \_\_\_\_\_

ORCHESTRA DIRECTOR NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_ CITY: \_\_\_\_\_ STATE: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

PRIVATE TEACHER NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_ CITY: \_\_\_\_\_ STATE: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_



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**\*REGION/STATE EXPERIENCE:**

**\*PREVIOUS YOUTH ORCHESTRA EXPERIENCE:**

\*Please use an extra page if necessary.