

AMERICAN FESTIVAL *for the* ARTS

Summer Music Conservatory and Concert Series



Our Mission

American Festival for the Arts (AFA) was founded in 1993 with a mission to provide music education and performance opportunities for youth from throughout Southeast Texas and to broaden the audience for American works and the classical music repertoire.

AFA's Annual Summer Music Conservatory and Concert Series

To achieve its mission, AFA presents an annual Summer Music Conservatory and Concert Series during June and July on the campus of Episcopal High School in Houston and Austin Middle School in Beaumont. These unique and acclaimed community-based music education programs, with their faculties of the nations' finest music educators, performers, conductors and composers, have become recognized as among the most important annual events in the cultural life of Southeast Texas and as models for programs of their kind around the nation. A rigorous daily curriculum of orchestra, chamber music, private instruction, music theory/history, jazz, choral, middle school string orchestra and composition is offered to graduating fifth through twelfth grade music students and public performances by student and faculty ensembles take place throughout the program. In 2006, the 11th AFA Summer Music Conservatory enrolled 258 students from 101 middle and senior high schools representing 24 Independent School Districts (ISDs) from throughout Southeast Texas. This was the largest class in AFA's history with over 62% of students attending through the support of the AFA Scholarship Enrichment Fund. The Conservatory is an inspiring, life changing experience for its students and the wide variety of schools from different independent school districts that make up AFA's student body is one of the most important aspects of the program. An enrollment that is this far reaching brings a sense of community and unity to the musically aspiring youth of Southeast Texas and strengthens audience support for the arts throughout the region.

Did You Know That...

AFA is **nationally known** as a model of community-based music education and is the only program of its kind in the state of Texas?

The 2006 AFA Conservatory enrolled **258 students** representing **101 area schools** from 24 Independent School Districts (ISDs) from throughout Southeast Texas?

The AFA campuses have been a 'home' to **more than one thousand students** and their families in the last eleven years and that at least **two of every five students** return for a second year?

100% of twelfth-grade AFA students have **enrolled in two and four year college programs**. Of those pursuing a music major, AFA alumni have gone on

AFA's 2006 Conservatory was featured in the following publications: The Houston Chronicle, ArtsHouston Magazine and The Beaumont Enterprise

to prestigious programs at the Eastman School of Music, The Juilliard School, Oberlin Conservatory, the University of Texas, Rice University, the University of Houston, USC, UNT, the Curtis Institute, New England Conservatory, and the Peabody Conservatory?

AFA draws a faculty of **internationally recognized performers, composers, conductors and educators** representing symphony orchestras and college and university programs from around the nation?

The 2006 AFA Concert Series offered **seventeen free concerts** that entertained thousands of Houston and Southeast Texas area music lovers?

AFA concerts take place **throughout the City of Houston** including Zilkha Hall at the Hobby Center for the Performing Arts, the Julie Rogers Theatre, the UH Moores Opera House, Rothko Chapel, the Lawndale Arts Center, South Main Baptist Church, St. Martin's Episcopal Church and at Episcopal High School?

AFA premieres or presents **more American works** than any other Houston presenter?



We invite you to help "Make Music Matter"!

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All gifts to AFA are prominently featured in our promotional materials, programs and web site.

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