



TEXAS YOUNG MASTERS

A program of the TEXAS CULTURAL TRUST



STARS START HERE



The **Texas Young Masters Program** is a joint initiative between the Texas Cultural Trust and the Texas Commission on the Arts, recognizing excellence in 8th through 11th graders in dance, theatre, literary arts, media arts, film, music, and visual arts. The program awards scholarship grants of \$5,000 per year, for two years, nurturing our rising stars to become the Texas legends of tomorrow.

The program is available to students engaged in the arts, offering financial assistance to develop their unique talents. Students may be enrolled in a program through their school or receive private lessons from a qualified professional instructor.

“To be young, motivated, and free to truly explore what it means to be an artist; this is a powerful combination of forces. The Young Masters program is important because it recognizes this time.”

— Katie Rose Pipkin, 2008 Texas Young Master in Visual Arts

SUCCESS STORIES



Christopher Vo
2002 Young Master in Dance

Vo used his scholarship grant to do a summer of study at Juilliard, which led to his eventual acceptance into the Juilliard program, one of only ten freshmen who received a full scholarship. He has toured extensively in Twyla Tharp's *Come Fly Away* national tour. He was also a featured dancer in the NBC show *Smash*, and is recognized as a Presidential Scholar in the Arts. Vo is a graduate of Booker T. Washington High School of the Performing and Visual Arts in Dallas.



Charles Yang
2004 Young Master in Music

Described by *The Boston Globe* as, "One who plays classical violin with the charisma of a rock star," Yang performed as a soloist with orchestras and in recitals in the United States, Europe, Brazil, Russia, China, and Taiwan, and is the recipient of numerous awards and honors. Yang attended The Juilliard School after graduating from Westlake High School in Austin.



Ida Saki
2010 Young Master in Dance

Saki is from Dallas, but is a first generation Iranian-American whose love of dance stems in part from her mother not being able to study that art form as a young girl in Iran. Since Young Masters, she has wowed the judges on *So You Think You Can Dance*, and received numerous national honors, including Distinguished Performer of the Year, Outstanding Dancer of the Year, and was the first female dancer to be named a Presidential Scholar in the Arts. Saki also co-created/performed in a show that premiered at the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts.



Ann Cho
2014 Young Master in Music

Cho is a two-time National Young Arts Foundation Winner in Classical Music. She has won top prizes at the MTNA National Solo Competition, Austin Civic Orchestra's Pearl Amster Competition, Austin Symphony Orchestra's Youth Awards, and the Longy School of Music's Concerto Competition. At the age of five, she was the youngest member of the Boston Youth Symphony Orchestra.



Photo by Jim Debbth, InDebbth Photography

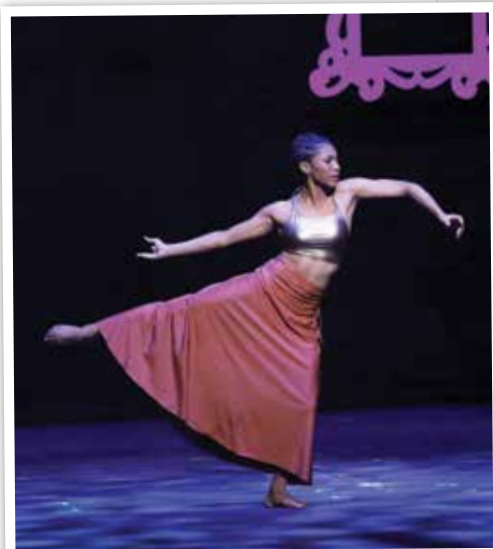
Jared Brown, 2014 Texas Young Master in Dance

Dear Texas Cultural Trust,

Thank you for having me at the Young Masters Ceremony. It was such a pleasure to be back and on the other side! I just wanted to firstly, thank you for reaching out to me, and secondly, just reassure you of all of the great things that Young Masters is doing for young artists like myself! You guys at the Texas Cultural Trust are true blessings for all of the current and future Young Masters. If you ever are in need of any help to put on a performance, do not hesitate to contact me; it's the least I can do for all of your hard work and faith in us artists all over Texas!

Gratefully,

Jared Brown



Photos by Jim Deboth, InDepth Photography

Amber Pickens, 2008 Texas Young Master in Dance

Dear Texas Cultural Trust,

I just wanted to send a note over to you to simply THANK YOU! As a member of the 2008 Class of the Texas Young Masters Program, I can truly say that my exposure and education in the performing arts was broadened and taken to a much higher level.

My annual scholarship grant allowed me to travel to New York City and become exposed to the Broadway stage and some of the best choreographers in dance. I trained at summer Broadway workshops in musical theatre at Camp Broadway and studied dance in the summer intensives at The Alvin Ailey School (two programs that exposed me and helped to better create my strong performing arts foundation). At a very pivotal time in my life of trying to figure out the “how” and “what” I would become...as a Texas Young Master, I was able to better figure it out because I was given a once in a lifetime opportunity to “go and see” for myself.

As you know, I headed off to The Juilliard School from Booker T. Washington High School of the Performing and Visual Arts in Dallas. This past May 2015, I received my Bachelor of Arts from the Dance Program at Juilliard. Juilliard has been my dream school ever since I was 8 years old watching Julia Stiles' big audition in *Save the Last Dance*. Receiving the Young Masters scholarship grant helped me to work with the best masters in dance and theatre that I simply never imagined I would ever meet...and I was actually being taught by them.

Eight years later and now I'm in rehearsals for the upcoming Cirque du Soleil's first Broadway production, *Paramour*. Why? Because I was a Texas Young Master! Now it's my time to give back to help with other students. I made my first donation towards future Young Masters. I want to do anything I can to do my part in making sure you are able to keep the program alive. Again, THANK YOU so very much for making the difference in my life!

Amber

SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR PROGRAM FOUNDERS:

AT&T Foundation, Anheuser-Busch Foundation, Applied Materials, BNSF Railway,
The Honorable David Dewhurst, Emerson Electric, Mrs. Gene Jones, Mr. George Mitchell,
Mrs. W.D. Noel, Plum Foundation, Ray C. Fish Foundation, Raytheon



Texas Cultural Trust's mission is to be the leading voice for the arts in education, advocacy, and economic impact in Texas, spotlighting the artistic excellence of our state.

For more information on the Texas Young Masters program, visit www.txculturaltrust.org

TEXAS YOUNG MASTERS

Since its inception in 2002, the Trust has given **278 SCHOLARSHIP GRANTS** to **139 PREVIOUS YOUNG MASTERS**, **AWARDING \$857,500** to aspiring artists from across the state.



Members of the 2016 Class of Young Masters

2002

Emily Schmeltekopf, Fort Worth, *Dance*
 Alexander Lue, Richardson, *Music*
 Olivia Dane Charbeneau, Dallas, *Visual Arts*
 Dean Andre de Luna, Fort Worth, *Dance*
 Rachel Lamb, Plano, *Dance*
 Christopher Vo, Dallas, *Dance*
 Anita Shankar, Houston, *Dance*
 Katherine Petak, Houston, *Music*
 Adriana Potoczniak, Houston, *Music*
 Stephanie Joiner, Austin, *Musical Theatre*
 Antonio Cisneros, San Antonio, *Visual Arts*
 Nicholas Noel Garza, Pharr, *Visual Arts*
 Melissa M. McChristian, Pflugerville, *Visual Arts*
 Chloe Trevor, Plano, *Music*

2004

Stephanie Williams, Allen, *Dance*
 Jonathan Campbell, Cedar Hill, *Dance*
 Brandie Phillips, San Angelo, *Music*
 Caitlin Tully, Austin, *Music*
 Ngoc-Yen Thi (Angela) Hoang, Houston, *Visual Arts*
 Morgan Ashlee Morrow, Arlington, *Musical Theatre*
 Sofya Karash, Houston, *Visual Arts*
 Ei-Jane Janet Lin, Bellaire, *Visual Arts*
 Chris Jenkins, Plano, *Visual Arts*
 Anna Michelle Reyes, Austin, *Dance*
 Charles Yang, Austin, *Music*

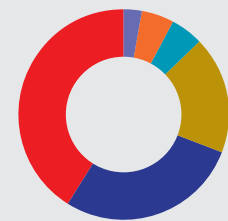
2006

Dakota Anderson, Houston, *Visual Arts*
 Sarah Crowe, Austin, *Visual Arts*
 Natalie Freeman, Austin, *Dance*
 Mary Michael Patterson, Aledo, *Musical Theatre*
 Mitchell Collier, Austin, *Film*
 Brittanie Brown, Dallas, *Dance*
 Ebony Cunningham, Dallas, *Dance*
 Cecil Moore, Dallas, *Dance*
 Jesse Caldwell, Center, *Visual Arts*
 Lili Froehlich, Weatherford, *Musical Theatre*
 Samantha Stewart, Dallas, *Music*
 Cynthia Black, Dallas, *Music*
 Emily Clarkson, Brownwood, *Music*
 Damian Green, Austin, *Music*
 Margaux Crump, Houston, *Visual Arts*
 Alice Dennard, Houston, *Mixed Media*
 Jon Eng, Houston, *Visual Arts*
 Jose Martinez, Houston, *Visual Arts*
 Paige Brown, Kingwood, *Music*
 Lindsey Maxon, Arlington, *Literature*
 Marco Villa, Austin, *Music*
 Sarah Welch, Austin, *Visual Arts*
 Michael Paglia, San Antonio, *Visual Arts*
 Caroline Beach, Fort Worth, *Dance*
 Shannon Lee, Plano, *Music*
 Sean Maddox, Austin, *Musical Theatre*
 Stephanie Chen, Austin, *Music*

139 YOUNG MASTERS 2002 - 2016



YOUNG MASTERS BY REGION



- East Texas - 3%
- South Texas - 5%
- West Texas - 5%
- Central Texas - 18%
- Houston - 28%
- Dallas/Fort Worth - 41%



Tosca String Quartet performs while artwork by 2016 Young Masters plays in the background.

2008

Torrance Cobb, Beaumont, *Dance*
 Julia Cinquemani, Dallas, *Dance*
 Amber Pickens, Dallas, *Dance*
 Christine Smith, Dallas, *Theatre/Musical Theatre*
 Thales Smith, Austin, *Music*
 Robert Switala, Grapevine, *Music*
 Catherine Cleary, Houston, *Visual Arts*
 Boris Karash, Houston, *Visual Arts*
 Robbie Moore, Porter, *Dance*
 Rosie Salvucci, San Antonio, *Music*
 Rachael Milton, Austin, *Visual Arts*
 Kira Viola, El Paso, *Dance*
 Maureen Fenninger, Houston, *Theatre/ Musical Theatre*
 Katie Pipkin, Austin, *Visual Arts*
 Bernadette Gnass, Wimberly, *Literature*

2010

Emily Manning, College Station, *Visual Arts*
 Maddie Bueter, Frisco, *Music*
 Alysia Johnson, Dallas, *Dance*
 Ida Saki, Plano, *Dance*

McKinley Willis, Dallas, *Dance*
 Eun "Jinny" Seo, Euless, *Visual Arts*
 Behnam Arzaghi, Lubbock, *Music*
 Hannah Lee, Bryan, *Musical Theatre*
 Kyle Morrow, Dallas, *Visual Arts*
 Sydney Roberts, Spring, *Musical Theatre*
 Alexandra Switala, Grapevine, *Music*
 Michael Taylor, Arlington, *Music*
 Vincent Turner, New Braunfels, *Music*
 Ava Barrett, Houston, *Visual Arts*
 Chelsea Conwright, Cypress-Fairbanks, *Dance*
 Karina Farek, Houston, *Visual Arts*
 Ruth Lin, Houston, *Visual Arts*
 Monica Brown, Kingwood, *Musical Theatre*
 Morgan Starr, Spring, *Musical Theatre*
 Paul "Vijay" Meunier, Sunset Valley, *Music*
 Skylar Boykin, Plano, *Dance*
 Michelle Suh, Austin, *Music*

2012

Eric Bowser, Center Point, *Music*
 Brendan Carrillo, Waco, *Music*
 Michelle Garcia, Cypress, *Dance*
 Mia Gerachis, Houston, *Musical Theatre*

Christian Kay, Tyler, *Music*
 Reagan Lukefahr, Houston, *Musical Theatre*
 Mason Manning, McKinney, *Dance*
 Cesar Martinez, San Antonio, *Film*
 Ani Mayo, Plano, *Dance*
 Annyston Pennington, Amarillo, *Literature*
 Shilpa Sadagopan, Pearland, *Music*
 Susan Seo, Euless, *Visual Arts*
 Michael Stromile, Dallas, *Dance*
 Morgan Tao, Rosharon, *Visual Arts*
 Laurel Thornburg, Houston, *Visual Arts*

2014

Sophie Anthony, Dallas, *Visual Arts*
 Jay Appaji, Plano, *Music*
 Nizhoni Begay, San Antonio, *Music*
 Jared Brown, Dallas, *Dance*
 William Chang, Plano, *Music*
 Ann Cho, Austin, *Music*
 Montana Dalton, Frisco, *Dance*
 Christin Engelberth, San Antonio, *Visual Arts*
 Claudia Isabel Heymach, Pearland, *Literature*
 Esther Liao, Houston, *Music*
 Hannah McEvelly, Austin, *Musical Theatre*
 Meg Mickelsen, Dallas, *Visual Arts*
 Nina Pitts, Houston, *Music*
 Kian Raissian, Houston, *Music*
 Juanito Riveros, Rowlett, *Music*
 Sydney Shreve, Dallas, *Visual Arts*
 Catherine Thomas, Texarkana, *Theatre*
 Anastasia Tillman, Fort Worth, *Dance*
 Luke Westerman, Houston, *Dance*
 Katja Yanko, The Woodlands, *Musical Theatre*

2016

Todd Baker, Carrollton, *Dance*
 Samantha Choo, Plano, *Music*
 Emma Colwell, Grand Prairie, *Theatre*
 Margaret Errickson, Houston, *Visual Arts*
 Quinlan Facey, Plano, *Music*
 Niell Gorman, Houston, *Visual Arts*
 Shadden Hassem, Colleyville, *Dance*
 Mia Heckler, Bellaire, *Theatre*
 Bhargavi Sarangapani, Coppell, *Dance*
 Fiona Shea, Lubbock, *Music*
 Emma Sutherland, Dallas, *Dance*
 Zane Unger, Dallas, *Dance*
 Olivia Vanderslice, Garland, *Dance*
 Johnathan Wu, Plano, *Music*
 Anton Zhou, Sugar Land, *Visual Arts*

SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR 2016 YOUNG MASTERS SCHOLARSHIPS UNDERWRITERS:



Sarah and Ernest Butler Endowed Young Masters Scholarship in Music

Kelli and Eddy Blanton/Scurlock Foundation Young Master Scholarship
 Woody and Gayle Hunt Family Foundation Young Master Scholarship
 Lee Bailey Young Master Scholarship
 Suzanne Deal Booth Young Master Scholarship
 Jesús Moroles Memorial Young Master Scholarship in Visual Arts