

LA Phil

YOLA Marks Five Years of the Beckmen YOLA Center with Expanded Programs, Partnerships, and Educational Opportunities



New initiatives include Beckmen YOLA Center anniversary programming, expanded school partnerships, new East Los Angeles hub, Symphonies for Schools opportunities, and community collaborations

LOS ANGELES (September 25, 2026) — As the Frank Gehry-designed Judith and Thomas L. Beckmen YOLA Center in Inglewood celebrates its fifth anniversary, the LA Phil is launching a series of new initiatives, partnerships, and educational opportunities that will expand access to high-quality music education and artistic experiences for young people across Los Angeles County through YOLA (Youth Orchestra Los Angeles).

"YOLA has come so far on its incredible journey and stands as a powerful example of what can happen when communities invest in young people by providing the resources, space, and opportunities they need to thrive. Every day, we see students build confidence, creativity, and

meaningful connections through music while developing a strong sense of belonging and community. As we mark this milestone at the Beckmen YOLA Center, we are excited to expand our reach and welcome even more young artists into YOLA's supportive ecosystem of learning and artistic growth," said LA Phil President and CEO, David C. Bohnett Presidential Chair, Kim Noltemy.

"Over the past five years, the Beckmen YOLA Center has become a vibrant home for learning, creativity, and community," said Camille Delaney-McNeil, Vice President of Learning at the LA Phil. "As we celebrate this milestone, we are continuing to invest in partnerships and programs that expand access to music education, support young people's artistic development, and create meaningful opportunities for students and families across Los Angeles."

A significant development is YOLA's expanded collaboration with the Inner City Youth Orchestra of Los Angeles (ICYOLA), creating new opportunities for students from both programs to learn, perform, and grow together. Under the partnership, ICYOLA musicians will have access to the Beckmen YOLA Center as a regular rehearsal home and will participate alongside YOLA students in masterclasses led by Los Angeles Philharmonic musicians, and joint performance opportunities. The organizations are also exploring annual side-by-side orchestral collaborations featuring large-scale repertoire and newly commissioned works created specifically for musicians from both programs. Additional areas of collaboration include support for ICYOLA's early learners programs, expanded opportunities for students to participate across ensembles and access to YOLA's college preparation resources. Together, the partnership brings the unique strengths of both organizations into closer alignment, creating new pathways for artistic growth, musical excellence, and long-term success for students.

Charles Dickerson, Founder, Executive Director and Conductor of ICYOLA, hails this new partnership as an opportunity to expand the life-changing work that both organizations offer. "We are thrilled to join hands with the LA Phil to uplift youngsters - particularly those who live in our City's most underserved neighborhoods. By working together, we multiply the chances of developing first chair musicians and first class citizens, and thus, stronger communities, even a more cohesive nation and a better world. We thank Kim Noltemy and the entire LA Phil leadership for this vision for us to do this work together. We know that together we will add value to the youth development ecosystem of our region."

YOLA is also launching a new home in East Los Angeles with YOLA at Griffith, creating an expanded hub for students and families. The new location at Griffith STEAM Magnet Middle School will provide additional opportunities for music instruction, enrichment activities, and community engagement while strengthening YOLA's presence in one of the communities it has served for years. The move reflects YOLA's continued investment in neighborhood-based

programming that makes high-quality music education accessible and convenient for participating students and families.

Beyond its youth orchestra programs, the LA Phil continues to connect thousands of young people with transformative live music experiences through Symphonies for Schools and Invited Rehearsals. Since 1919, Symphonies for Schools has introduced generations of students to the excitement and artistry of a live orchestra, serving hundreds of thousands of young people and welcoming more than 12,000 students annually from across Los Angeles County. Over 1450 students attend Invited Rehearsals which further deepens engagement by providing student musicians and educators with an exclusive opportunity to observe the Los Angeles Philharmonic at work, explore repertoire and the rehearsal process, and participate in interactive learning experiences. Together, these programs help spark curiosity and meaningful connections between young musicians and the arts.

Ramiro Casteneda, Norwalk High School Director of Instrumental Music, District 4 Title I School, "Our previous Invited Rehearsal experience had a lasting impact. Shortly afterward, our ensemble earned a unanimous superior rating at the festival. The students were able to connect what they saw and heard from professional musicians to their own work: sound, balance, phrasing, dynamics, ensemble listening, and the rehearsal process. Experiences like these are especially meaningful for Title I schools and programs with fewer resources. They give students more than a visit to Walt Disney Concert Hall; they give them a professional reference point for what musicality looks and sounds like."

Together, these initiatives reflect YOLA's continued commitment to ensuring that young talent has access to inspiring artistic experiences, high-quality music education, and resources.

ABOUT THE LA PHIL

The LA Phil offers live performances, media initiatives, and learning programs that inspire and strengthen communities in Los Angeles and beyond. The Los Angeles Philharmonic orchestra is the foundation of the LA Phil's offerings, which also include a multi-genre, multidisciplinary presenting program and such youth development programs as YOLA_(Youth Orchestra Los Angeles). Performances are offered across four historic venues—[Walt Disney Concert Hall](#), the [Hollywood Bowl](#), [The Ford](#), and [Beckmen YOLA Center](#)—as well as through a variety of media platforms. In all its endeavors, the LA Phil seeks to enrich the lives of individuals and communities through musical, artistic and learning experiences that resonate in our world today.

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