

# Texas Institute for Orchestral Studies

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For Immediate Release

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Texas Institute for Orchestral Studies achieves record enrollment for summer event, OrchestraFest23.

Enrollment for OrchestraFest23 in Fort Worth has more than doubled from 2022, the event's first year. OrchestraFest is a one-day festival hosted by the Texas Institute for Orchestral Studies, based in Fort Worth.

OrchestraFest23 will be Wednesday, June 21 at a Fort Worth public school campus. The event serves high-school and recently graduated musicians. It attracts students in the Fort Worth area, but is open to all interested high-school musicians, of all backgrounds and abilities. All registrants receive a full scholarship. No audition is required. Information and the registration form are found at <https://txios.org>.

The event will include a rehearsal and reading session of three symphonic works: Tchaikovsky's Fourth Symphony, Mozart's Violin Concerto No. 3, and "Brasil" by Barroso.

Violinist Joel Cabral, a recent graduate of Fort Worth's Green B. Trimble Technical High School, will perform Mozart's Violin Concerto. He will be accompanied by the orchestra.

Eight experienced professional musicians representing the Fort Worth Symphony Orchestra, including some first chairs, will lead clinics for the high school musicians. The clinics will focus on technique, musicianship, and preparation for All-State Orchestra auditions.

"70 young musicians have enrolled. This is more than double from last year," says John Toohey, Managing Director of TXIOS. "We want to include all high-school musicians and recent grads. In our first year we focused on a string orchestra and 32 enrolled. This year, we expanded the program to include all orchestra instruments."

Miguel Harth-Bedoya, founder and Artistic Advisor of TXIOS, says "It has long been my dream to build a foundation for young orchestral musicians in our community." Harth-Bedoya is Director of Orchestral Studies at Baylor University in Waco, Texas, and Music Director Laureate of the Fort Worth Symphony Orchestra. "They deserve, at every level, the knowledge, skills and experiences they will need to become self-sufficient, prepared musicians and music lovers."

“TXIOS is instrumental in nurturing young musicians, directly contributing to the long-term health of the performing arts” says Felix Torres, Artistic Director and Principal Conductor of TXIOS. “The importance of their role cannot be understated in a time when music education is more crucial than ever. By striving to increase access and equity, we ensure that these invaluable opportunities are available to all, regardless of background or economic circumstances.” Torres is Music and Artistic Director of the Mesquite (Texas) Symphony Orchestra and Executive and Artistic Director of the East Texas Youth Orchestra.

“Performing in a full symphony orchestra is a highlight for many musicians,” says Sammy Branch, Associate Director of Orchestras at Martin High School in Arlington, Texas. “TXIOS offers this opportunity to young musicians in the Fort Worth area, while also connecting them with professional musicians and conductors. These opportunities instill a love of music in young students and their families that can foster more professional musicians, music educators or simply create lifelong advocates and patrons of the arts.” In addition to his work at Martin High School, Samuel “Sammy” Branch is String Orchestra Conductor of the Fort Worth (Texas) Youth Orchestra.

“We are grateful for the support and partnership of the Fort Worth Independent School District, Jennifer Martin, Orchestra Coordinator, Ebony McDonald, School Principal, and Sara Luna, School Administrator,” Toohey said.

The Texas Institute for Orchestral Studies (TXIOS) began in 2022. It was founded by Miguel Harth-Bedoya, Felix Torres and John Toohey. TXIOS is a cultural-development initiative of Caminos del Inka, a nonprofit arts organization based in Fort Worth, Texas.

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<https://txios.org/orchestralfest-2023>

Texas Institute for Orchestral Studies (TXIOS) is a community-cultural development initiative of Caminos del Inka, a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization based in Fort Worth, Texas. TXIOS is affiliated with Caminos del Inka initiative, The Conducting Institute.

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[www.caminosdelinka.org](http://www.caminosdelinka.org)

[www.conductinginstitute.org](http://www.conductinginstitute.org)

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