YOA IS A WORLD-CLASS SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA ages 18 to 30, representing 25 countries in the Western Hemisphere.

YOA’S MISSION is to empower young musical leaders to transform lives across the Americas and beyond. YOA has become an international brand by bringing renowned artists—from Yo-Yo Ma to Paquito D’Rivera, from Plácido Domingo to Philip Glass—into the lives of young musicians and diverse audiences.

FREE AND OPEN AUDITIONS are held annually via YouTube, removing the cost of international postage, to ensure that any deserving and eligible musician can apply. Following adjudication by prestigious faculty, all musicians in the new orchestra participate on full-scholarship, to achieve the greatest equality and diversity possible.

THE SEASON CENTERPIECE is a July-August Residence and Concert Tour held each year in different regions of the world. Musicians, Faculty, Conductors, and Guest Artists gather for a 2-week Residence of daily full-orchestra and sectional rehearsals to prepare diverse and challenging repertoire to take on a month-long tour.

YOA HAS PERFORMED more than 300 concerts since its 2002 Inaugural Tour in settings that range from the most prestigious concert halls of Europe and the Americas to outdoor venues not often associated with symphonic music. YOA has reached millions through live performances, television and radio broadcasts, CD recordings, print media, and documentary films.

THE GLOBAL LEADERS PROGRAM is an annual yearlong training course that supports the transformation of exceptional musicians into leading social entrepreneurs. The Program combines unique on-site leadership development in diverse international settings with remote classroom training guided by a pioneering faculty. Leaders are taught to act simultaneously as cultural entrepreneurs, mentors, teaching artists, advocates, performers, administrators, and fundraisers.

THE IMPACT OF YOA stretches far beyond its programs. Participants return to their native countries to share experiences and gained knowledge with their communities. YOA connects musicians to institutions of higher learning and professional job opportunities. YOA has served as the model for music education startups in Brazil, Colombia, the Dominican Republic, Haiti, Jamaica, Panama, Saint Lucia, the United States, and Uruguay.
YOA believes in and is dedicated to the development of 3 core themes:

**EXCELLENCE**

Graduates of YOA win jobs in the world’s most competitive orchestras. Mariinsky Orchestra of St. Petersburg, London Symphony, São Paolo State Orchestra, Houston Symphony. 20% of YOA alumni occupy jobs in professional orchestras within one year of graduation.

Outspoken advocates for YOA include leading figures: Yo-Yo Ma, Philip Glass, Mario Vargas Llosa, Madeleine Albright, David Rockefeller Jr., Laura Bush. The Organization of American States has called YOA “the most important cultural initiative in the Americas.”

YOA showcases on the world’s most prestigious stages: Oriental Arts Centre (Shanghai), Teatro Colon (Buenos Aires), St. Peter’s Basilica (Vatican), Carnegie Hall (USA).

YOA’s music faculty includes world music leaders: Principals of the Berlin Philharmonic, Royal Concertgebouw Orchestra, Rome Opera, and Metropolitan Opera Orchestra, among other top music institutions. YOA’s Global Leaders teaching faculty includes a Nobel Prize Winner.

**CONNECTIVITY**

YOA unites the largest network of young orchestral musicians in the world with 85,000+ active followers. YOA introduces the world of symphonic music to new audiences in settings like community gymnasiums (northern Chile) and public squares (Guatemala).

Community engagement missions serve remote communities: coastal Suriname, China’s Gobi desert, Senegal’s interior, Amazon Rain Forest of Brazil. 1 out of 2 YOA concert attendees will encourage someone new to study music.

**TRANSFORMATION**

YOA plants seeds. It has co-founded autonomous national youth orchestras in Colombia, Jamaica, Honduras, Belize, and the Dominican Republic (in these 5 countries alone it means first-class training to more than 1,000 students annually, more than $3,000,000 in collective budgets). YOA concert tours shine a light on grassroots music initiatives. Through the Global Leaders Program, YOA offers the world’s first social entrepreneurship course for orchestral musicians: participants have established new music initiatives in more than 10 countries, and supported local music projects through more than 50 international coaching missions.

YOA musicians work throughout regions where access to teachers can be the greatest obstacle. 97% of the local youth that YOA musicians mentor significantly improve their technical mastery of an instrument.