The Corpus Christi Area Youth Orchestra is a free music program for area students ages 8-19.

There are 4 Ensembles within the CCAYO:
- **Sparkling City Strings**: ages 8-13
- **Sinfonietta**: ages 13-16
- **Symphony Ensemble**: ages 14-17
- **Orchestra**: ages 14-19

Dr. José G. Flores directs the Symphony Ensemble and Orchestra groups; Dr. Melissa Melendez directs the Sparkling City Strings and Sinfonietta ensembles. Two elite groups that have been created are the Viola Project and the Cello Choir.

New membership is by audition only, and is open to area students ages 8-19. Auditions are held once a year prior to the first CCAYO rehearsal of the season. Thanks to generous sponsor support, there is no audition fee or tuition charge for this program.

Members are expected to provide a personal or school instrument for rehearsal and performance use (standard percussion instruments provided by CCAYO). The three strings-only ensembles are required to purchase specific instructional books for practice and rehearsal purposes. Please contact the CCSO for details on required class materials.

Returning CCAYO members must complete a CCAYO Member Renewal Form (contact CCSO for details), but do NOT need to audition.

### Concert Schedule:
- **CCAYO WINTER CONCERT**: December 14, 2017
- **CCAYO SPRING CONCERT**: May 3, 2018

**Ticket Prices:**
- $10 Adults
- $5 Students (or with College ID)
- FREE Children ages 5 and under

Questions? Contact DGrim@ccsymphony.org

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**CCAYO Directors**

**Dr. José Flores** has been a professor of violin and viola at Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi since 2006. His international career expands to countries such as South Korea, Italy, Germany, Mexico and Venezuela. He started playing the violin in 1978 as one of the pioneers of the Venezuelan Orchestra system known worldwide as “El Sistema” (The System).

During his time in Venezuela as part of the Youth Orchestra he conducted, played, and did orchestral workshops to members of the Youth Orchestra. His Bachelor and Master degrees are from the Aaron Copland School of Music in New York. He obtained his Doctorate in Musical Arts degree from the University of Arizona in 2006. He is a great advocate of string music education. He is currently the President for the Texas Chapter of the American String Teachers Association, an institution that promotes and gives support to string education at the national level.

**Dr. Melissa Melendez** is a member of the Islander String Trio at Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi (TAMU-CC), principal violist of the Victoria Symphony, principal violist of the Kingsville Symphony and member of the Corpus Christi Symphony. She is also the Director of the Suzuki Program at the TAMU-CC Early Childhood Development Center.

Dr. Melendez has performed with the University of Arizona Symphony Orchestra as the 2004 winner of the President’s Competition (University of Arizona) in addition to the Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi String Orchestra, the Kingsville Symphony and the Balcones Symphony in Austin.

In 2012, she was featured in the world premiere of Venezuelan composer Gonzalos Castellano’s Concerto for Viola and Orchestra with the Carabobo Symphony in Venezuela. Dr. Melendez holds a Bachelor in Music from Louisiana State University, a Master in Music from The Cleveland Institute of Music, an Artist Diploma from Duquesne University and a Doctorate in Musical Arts from the University of Arizona.
Audition Requirements

Orchestra & Sinfonietta Ensembles

**Woodwinds, Brass, and Strings:**
- Scales:
  - Perform 2 major scales of your choice, playing multiple octaves at varying speeds to best demonstrate your most advanced technique and artistry.
  - Woodwinds and Brass only: demonstrate detached and slurred articulations.
- Chromatic Scale (Woodwinds and Brass Only):
  - Perform ascending and descending chromatic scale, demonstrating your full range from lowest to highest notes. Be prepared to demonstrate different articulations.
  - Woodwinds and Brass only: demonstrate detached and slurred articulations.
- Perform a selection of your choice from a solo, etude, or orchestral excerpt that demonstrates your most advanced technique and musicianship. Selection should be no more than 4 minutes in length. Please bring one copy for the audition panel.

**Sparkling City Players** (8-11 years old)
- Little or no orchestra experience required
- At least one year of lessons or ensemble experience required
- Student should be prepared to demonstrate range of musical skills/knowledge during audition

**Philharmonic** (10-13 years old)
- D Major scale in one octave
- Violin Students: G Major scale in two octaves
- Viola and Cello students: C Major scale in two octaves
- Must be proficient in Suzuki Book 1 or equivalent

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- Violin Students: G Major scale in two octaves
- Viola and Cello students: C Major scale in two octaves
- Must be proficient in Suzuki Book 1 or equivalent

**Harp**
- Scales:
  - Perform 2 major scales of your choice, 4 octaves (hands together)
  - Solo:
  - Perform a selection of your choice from a solo, etude, or orchestral excerpt that demonstrates your most advanced technique and musicianship. Selection should be no more than 4 minutes in length. Please bring one copy for the audition panel.

**Percussion**
- Note: Percussion instruments will be provided; bring mallets/sticks.
- Keyboard:
  - Perform 2 major scales of your choice on marimba or other keyboard instrument (not required if student is not proficient on keyboard instrument)
  - Snare:
  - Demonstrate a drumroll & controlled dynamics: **pp to ff**
  - Solo:
  - Perform selections of your choice from solos, etudes, or orchestral excerpts on timpani, snare, and keyboard instrument. Selections should demonstrate your most advanced technique and musicianship and be no more than 4 minutes in length. Students not proficient on timpani or keyboard instrument will only be required to perform a snare drum selection. Please bring one copy for the audition panel.

**IMPORTANT AUDITION INFO**

- All new students are required to audition before admission to a CCAYO ensemble
- Auditions are held on a first come-first serve basis
- Each student is expected to supply his/her own instrument (excludes percussion)
- Placement in an ensemble is at the discretion of the audition panel and ensemble’s director.

Check https://ccsymphony.org/youth-orchestra/ for updates!

**Application DEADLINE:**
- **Friday, Sept. 2nd, 2017**

**Questions?** Contact the CCSO Office for more information on the CCAYO and Auditions. Contact Director of Operations—Production & Education, Darcie Grim:
- 361.882.2717
- JDavis@ccsymphony.org

**Audition Date:**
- September 2nd & 9th, 2017  Room 127

**Location:**
- Band Hall in the Center for the Arts building at Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi