



What We Do

MISSION:

Provide a diversity of the very best in the performing and visual arts in order to entertain and enrich the lives of a broad regional audience.

PERFORMING ARTS:

As the Summer Home of the Houston Symphony, Home Away from Home of Houston Ballet and a presenting venue for Houston Grand Opera and the Texas Music Festival Orchestra, The Pavilion presents numerous performing arts events throughout the year. Free seating at these events makes the arts accessible to everyone.

The Pavilion hosts annual crowd favorites including the Houston Symphony's Star-Spangled Salute held every year on July 3 and Hocus Pocus Pops held in October every year to spook the family into the Halloween spirit. The Texas Music Festival Orchestra is held every year in June to showcase young talent from around the world.

Each November, The Pavilion is transformed into a giant playground and educational wonderland for the annual Children's Festival. The focus of Children's Festival is to awaken the creative minds of children and promote awareness of the performing and visual arts. Award-winning children's performers educate and entertain thousands of children during two days of non-stop fun and excitement. Each artist has a unique ability to delight and inspire children with programs that not only amuse, but also communicate positive messages. The festival features music, dance, puppetry, theater, comedy, arts and crafts, games, hands-on activities, face painting and more! The Pavilion also presents a variety of performances from the Houston Symphony, Houston Ballet and the Houston Grand Opera throughout the season.

The Pavilion offers free mezzanine and lawn seating for all Houston Symphony concerts and Houston Ballet's performance, as well as totally free seating at the Star-Spangled Salute and Texas Music Festival Orchestra, making the arts accessible to everyone! Guests also can bring picnics while sitting on the hill or in your seats (please note no beverages can be brought into the venue). Bring your family out and enjoy a great performance under the stars!

Pre-concert activities can be found in the North Plaza before most performing arts events. The side stage provides entertainment from local musicians, Pavilion Talk with noted musician scholars and amusements with local radio stations. The Pavilion *Partners* supplies an Arts & Crafts booth for children and an Instrument Petting Zoo that gives children the opportunity to explore and play different types of instruments.

CONTEMPORARY CONCERTS:

The Pavilion is the venue for concerts produced and promoted by Live Nation. These contemporary concerts include some of the hottest acts touring today.

EDUCATIONAL OUTREACH PROGRAMS:

The Cynthia Woods Mitchell Pavilion offers an array of educational and community outreach programs that impact nearly 50,000 children and their families annually throughout the Greater Houston area. These programs are an integral part of The Pavilion's Mission to offer live performing arts events to students regardless of race, gender, ethnicity or economic status. Listed below is information on each of the current educational outreach programs.

Hats Off to Reading

Hats Off to Reading is a free, family literacy event at The Pavilion. This annual celebration is a favorite for children who get to take home a free book and participate in literacy-based activities such as visiting with storybook characters and making bookmarks and hats. This program is supported by MCMLS, CISD librarians, St. Anthony of Padua Catholic School Library, Scholastic Book Fairs, Chick-fil-A, Junior League of North Harris and Montgomery Counties and The Pavilion. This event usually takes place in the spring prior to a performing arts event.

Musical Scores

Since its inception in 1995, Musical Scores, one of The Pavilion's most successful educational outreach programs, has grown from serving 200 students its first year to 6,000 students and teachers this year. The program primarily serves academically at-risk, middle school and high school students who earn the privilege to attend a special event at The Pavilion by displaying model behavior and achieving specific scholastic goals. To be rewarded, students must achieve specific goals as established by their teachers and/or administrators. These goals might include specific academic accomplishments, improving attendance, book-reading objectives, raising test scores, modifying classroom behavior, or whatever the administrators choose. Once the students have achieved their goals, or "musical scores," they are rewarded to a free performance and lunch at The Pavilion. The students also receive complimentary Musical Scores T-shirts for their achievement.

Fine Arts Education Day

Fine Arts Education Day, a free educational concert featuring the Houston Symphony, is designed to introduce fourth grade students to orchestral music and the various instruments in band and orchestra before they enter fifth grade and have to choose an elective. Sixth grade band

and orchestra students from CISD also are invited. For the sixth graders, the concert demonstrates where their studies could take them if they continue their pursuit of music. Produced in conjunction with Conroe ISD, Fine Arts Education Day fosters new audiences for and enhances appreciation of the arts.

The Pavilion Partners Fine Arts Scholarships

In April 2016, The Pavilion Partners awarded \$159,000 in scholarships to high school seniors and renewal scholarship recipients studying the Fine Arts in college. Scholarships are awarded to students in the following categories: vocal music, instrumental music, theatre arts, dance and visual arts. The awards are based on talent and academic performance. Since its inception, Partners has awarded more than \$735,000 in scholarships to students pursuing higher education in the arts.

Texas Music Festival Orchestra

Presented by the University of Houston's Moores School of Music, the Texas Music Festival showcases approximately 100 talented young musicians from around the world who attend a four-week training program at University of Houston during which they reside on campus and receive instruction from distinguished artists from the Moores School of Music, the Houston Symphony and internationally recognized guests. The festival provides an environment that allows these musicians to develop skills and techniques in orchestral and chamber music. The festival culminates with a free public performance at The Pavilion. The Cynthia Woods Mitchell Young Artist Competition winner performs a solo at this Pavilion performance and medals are awarded to all of the competition finalists.

Music in Motion

Master classes are held for CISD high school band and orchestra students led by Houston Symphony musicians and guests. These classes are designed for student musicians to receive personal instruction from professional musicians and to prepare students for All-State competitions.

Children's Festival

The four-day Children's Festival is designed to educate and entertain children of all ages. The festival features award-winning performers of puppetry, music, pantomime, theater, humor and original songs who incorporate educational messages into each performance. Curriculum guides are available for educators to integrate performance content into areas of study. The first two days of the festival are devoted to school field trips. The weekend is open to the public.

Pavilion Talk

Pavilion Talk is a set of informative pre-concert discussions led by noted music scholars that offer historical insight into the evening's concert. The program takes place 45 minutes before most symphony concerts in The Pavilion's North Plaza.

Young Talent Spotlight

The Young Talen Spotlight encourages the artists of tomorrow by exposing them to the joy of performing in front of a live audience. This takes place during Children's Festival, Texas Music Festival and on the side stage prior to many performing arts events.

Instrument Petting Zoo

The unique Instrument Petting Zoo consists of musical instruments including woodwinds, brass, strings and percussion. Children have the opportunity prior to most performing arts events to interact with the zoo, touching and even playing the instruments. The Pavilion *Partners* help implement the program.

Community Ticket Program

This program makes orchestra-level tickets to performing arts events available for free to numerous nonprofit organizations and senior groups.

Community Share

Community Share gives area nonprofit organizations the opportunity to utilize our performing arts events by having a booth where they can promote their organization and its mission to concertgoers. This opportunity is limited to one nonprofit organization per event.