



# Living and Giving Music Through YOSA Sarah Keiser, Mathematics, 2023

Engaged  
Living

## SUMMARY

Since last summer, I have been a participating flutist in Symphonic Winds, a wind band ensemble in the Youth Orchestra of San Antonio (YOSA). I also had the opportunity to rotate into YOSA Symphony, where I was able to play with a full orchestra for one out of three concert cycles. In YOSA, I am privileged to be able to perform quality classical and contemporary music for the enjoyment of others, but it requires hard work. Every week, I rehearse with my group in preparation for our seasonal concerts. Throughout this experience, I sought to become a stronger member of a group while developing my personal music skills as well. At every concert, I hoped to create a fond memory in the mind of each audience member, one of the beautiful music my group was able to share.



## SPICES

Engaged Living: I am dedicated to improving my technique in order to perform high-level music at four concerts this season. I am also responsible for individually refining my part so rehearsals can be geared toward developing group unity.

## HERBS

Honor: I strive to perform at my best while being respectful of the composer's intentions for each piece. Support: Each musician is critical to the group's overall performance, and YOSA supports students who wish to fulfill their musical dreams.

## LEARNING OUTCOMES

Adaptability & Resilience: Though mistakes happen often, it is important to have the mindset of one who is willing to work past those mistakes and grow stronger from them.

Agency through Accomplishment: After each concert, I gain self-confidence after seeing the delight on the faces of the audience, and I am proud that my group and I were able to play our parts well.

## IMPACT

Joining Symphonic Winds for the 2019-2020 season had a tremendous impact on me. I was able to take my skill to a new level and successfully play rather challenging pieces. The audience for my group's two concerts thus far seemed enthusiastic about our shows, and our conductor was pleased with the performance we gave. In addition to my musical skill, I gained confidence in myself and learned to rely more on my group.

## ADVICE

As a musician, you must be confident but also humble and willing to learn. When you make a mistake, accept it, change so you don't make the same mistake, and carry on. Be disciplined, stay focused, and don't forget to enjoy the music!

