

I'd like to nominate The Houston Yellow River Chorus (YRC), a registered non-profit organization established in 1996 and currently encompasses over sixty amateur singing enthusiasts from all walks of life in Houston, Texas.

YRC has performed various titled concerts at multiple venues such as Christ Church in Sugar Land, Belin Chapel in Houston Baptist University, Houston Hobby Center, throughout Texas. Striving to contribute to enhancing Chinese heritage and promoting cultural exchange, the Houston Yellow River Chorus not only brings to the stage traditional and contemporary Chinese songs, but also the music from various cultures to their audiences with diversified cultural background. They have also actively participated in various community and charity events such as the Houston International Festival, fund-raising performances for disaster relief, and the performances for the residence of the senior homes. The Houston Yellow River Chorus has blossomed to become one of the leading, respected, and most sought-after choirs in the Chinese Community in the Greater Houston area. In August 2019, the Houston Yellow River Chorus was granted Walt Disney Motif Award Fine Arts Scholastics Honor to recognize its contribution to the cultural exchange and community services.

I have joined The Houston Yellow River Chorus (YRC) for 6 years. I am impressed and touched to witness how passionate and dedicated the chorus leadership and the members are to make the chorus a loving big family and to make the community a better place. Most of the YRC members are seniors, with the average age of members well past 55. Despite all the issues and difficulties, YRC has always held a very high standard and has presented high quality performances to the community. YRC proudly performed the songs in the concerts in high quality without the music in their hands. It is a challenge especially for the seniors to memorize all the music notes and lyrics, but YRC members made it happen. The feedback from the past YRC's concerts showed the great appreciation of the Chinese music and culture event by the Chinese-speaking and non-Chinese-speaking audiences of the Greater Houston community.

YRC has played an important role in lifting the spirits of the members, families, and friends of the community all the time, especially during the pandemic. Back to the beginning of 2020, the chorus was forced to cancel the routine weekly onsite group practice, but the members quickly learned the new technologies to utilize Zoom and Soundtrap to continue practicing online and were able to creatively present the chorus performance online. It is a blessing that YRC behaved as a positive influence on the community during the difficult pandemic time.

YRC members are always eager to help the others in any possible ways. They volunteered large amount of their own time on not only the chorus activities, but also the community fairs. Many of the YRC members generously donated for various causes such as the disaster relief, domestically and internationally.

YRC supports the young musicians in the community by inviting them to the YRC concerts as guest performers, having them as pianists in the practices and concerts, cheering for them in their own performances, and caring them in their daily life.

RYC has been recognized as a substantiated and responsible choral society in the Greater Houston community. Stewart's community service award would help YRC continue to contribute to the community and would be greatly appreciated!