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Campus Notes

UTHealth musicians: Join Houston's Orchestra on Call for a good cause

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From left, Houston's Orchestra on Call members Shu-Hong Lin, Sarah Wu and Hillary Eichelberger – all of UTHealth, and Kenichiro Fujiwara of Baylor College of Medicine perform a string quartet program at The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center. (Photo courtesy of Houston's Orchestra on Call)

From time to time, the sounds of Bach, Beethoven and Gershwin drift through the air in hospital and nursing home lobbies, senior care center lounges and hospice rooms around Houston. Instead of emitting from CDs, they are [performed live](#) by the members of Houston's Orchestra on Call, a group comprising health professionals and students who are dedicated classical musicians.

The orchestra is calling on all classically trained UTHealth student, faculty and staff musicians to join the organization. The mission of Houston's Orchestra on Call is to perform live for patients

and residents of medical and nursing facilities to enhance their lives as they go through diagnosis, treatment and recovery and to relieve emotional and mental stress not only in them but also their families, doctors and other associated health professionals.

“We have about nine musicians from UTHealth, but we would love to invite more from UTHealth to join our orchestra. We welcome all string and wind instrument players,” says Carlos Guillermo Jung, founder and artistic director of the orchestra. “It’s a great opportunity for them to reconnect with their instruments and to enjoy making music along with other musicians who share the same motivation.”

Rehearsals are every Monday at 6:30 - 8:30 p.m. The orchestra’s repertoire ranges from classical to movies and seasonal music.

Most of the nine members from UTHealth hadn’t played their instruments for a while before they joined the orchestra, Jung notes, and were excited to have a strong reason to pick up their instruments again for rehearsals and play for a cause.

“Music is an extraordinary form of expression with many proven mental and physical benefits. It has the power to enhance our health and spiritual well-being,” he says. “I believe that playing with the group provides the musicians with an outlet for artistic expression and an opportunity for them to share their artistry with those who need the healing power of music in their lives. It's a wonderful way of giving back to the community.”

Since its inception, Houston’s Orchestra on Call musicians have performed for audiences at The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center, Ben Taub Hospital, Shriners Hospital for Children, The Menninger Clinic, Houston Hospice, Nora’s Home for Transplant Patients and Belmont Village Senior Care Center, mostly during winter and spring.

Houston’s Orchestra on Call comprises a chamber orchestra and individual musicians who are on call for performances in various ensemble forms, such as duet, trio, quartet or solo.

For more information and to audition, visit the [orchestra's website](#) or email orchestraoncall@gmail.com.