

# Dr. Tammy S. Yi

## 2025 All-State Junior High School String Orchestra

**Dr. Tammy S. Yi** is a first-gen conductor-educator, string pedagogy specialist and music education scholar from Los Angeles, CA. She is an assistant professor of music education at Chapman University, founding director of Mariachi Panteras and the orchestra conductor of the Los Angeles Philharmonic YOLA Orchestra. Dr. Yi is also faculty at the Colburn Conservatory of Music, teaching graduate courses in music performance research and pedagogy.

Dr. Yi emphasizes the significance of transformative social activism for youth in music, education and the performing arts. She maintains an active conducting schedule with El-Sistema orchestra programs, local school communities and state honor ensembles. As an international conductor, she has performed at prestigious international venues, collaborating with artists including Janet Jackson, Gustavo Dudamel, Ray Chen and Thomas Wilkins, among others. In addition to conducting, she mentors pre-K–12 music teachers in the community, Teaching Artists in the YOLA program, facilitates professional development sessions and designs music education curricula for the Los Angeles Philharmonic. Dr. Yi's research focus is on ethnic studies, culturally responsive pedagogy and EDIA (equity, diversity, inclusion and access) initiatives as they pertain to music performance and education. She regularly presents her work at music education and conducting conferences worldwide, gaining impressive international exposure for her and her research, including Oxford University, Sydney Conservatorium of Music, National Association for Music Education, California Music Educators Association, Sphinx Organization, and headlining the 2023 Texas Orchestra Directors Association Conference. Dr. Yi continues to serve on the American String Teachers Association's national board to train current and future music teachers in a social justice ethos so that educators can develop culturally and community-responsive pedagogy in orchestra education. Her research has appeared in leading music education journals, including *Music Education Research*, *Update: Applications of Research in Music Education*, *Oxford Handbook Series*, and *Music Educators Journal*.

Dr. Yi's musical accomplishments in teaching, scholarship, and youth activism have earned her a number of prestigious awards. She was awarded the Innovation in Diversity and Inclusion Research Award, the Grant for Pedagogical Innovation, which led to the formation of the first collegiate mariachi ensemble in Orange County, and the Award of Excellence from Chapman University. She was also named a finalist for the 2022 GRAMMY Music Educator Award.

Prior to teaching at Chapman University, Dr. Yi taught violin and orchestral conducting at Columbia University, was the conductor of the Manhattan School of Music Pre-college Orchestra and was an assistant professor of string education and conductor of the UA Philharmonic at the University of Arizona. Dr. Yi earned her doctorate in music and music education from Columbia University as a Florence K. Geffen Fellow, and she was awarded the Ella Fitzgerald Scholarship for her master's degree at the University of Southern California.

