

American Festival for the Arts  
Celebrating Fifteen Years Making Music Matter  
The Bell Tower on 34<sup>th</sup>  
Thursday, April 8, 2010 • 6:30 - 10:00 pm

Silent Auction Donor Form

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**This form is available for download at [www.AFAtexas.org](http://www.AFAtexas.org) under "Support"**

All gifts to AFA, a non-profit 501 (c)(3) organization, are tax deductible by law.  
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## ABOUT AMERICAN FESTIVAL FOR THE ARTS

Founded in 1993 by Houston composer and arts advocate J. Todd Frazier, **American Festival for the Arts (AFA)** provides high-quality, community-based music education programs and performance opportunities designed primarily for youth and, through its concert series and outreach, seeks to broaden the audience for both American works and the Classical music repertory.

Held in Houston, Texas, since 1995, the **AFA Summer Music Conservatory** has been acclaimed as an outstanding opportunity for musicians from throughout Southeast Texas to work with a nationally known faculty of composers, conductors, performers and educators. Hosted by Houston ISD's Pershing Middle School and featuring programs in orchestra, chamber music, choir, vocal studies, jazz, piano and composition, the Summer Music Conservatory auditions and enrolls more than three hundred 4th through 12th grade students representing over one hundred schools throughout Southeast Texas each year. The AFA Summer Concert Series presents as many as twenty free concerts each summer throughout the Bayou City.

Launching in 2010, the **AFA Academy** is a year-round music education and performance program for instrumentalists and vocalists of all ages. The Academy offers instruction in choral music, chamber music and music theory from Houston's finest professional musicians and educators — many of whom come to AFA through collaborations with AFA's arts partners. Academy classes take place after school or on weekends and culminate in concert performances by both students and faculty at the end of each session.

The **AFA Scholarship Enrichment Fund** provides students with both need-based and merit tuition assistance as well as transportation support to ensure that students have access to all of AFA's programs regardless of their socio-economic background. In 2009, almost two-thirds of all AFA students received assistance. AFA is dedicated to the belief that financial hardship should never be a barrier to enriching a child's life through music.

## MEET ONE OF AFA'S OUTSTANDING ALUMNI

### AHMED ZAAFRAN, Trumpet



AFA CLASS OF 1996, 1997, 1998, 1999

AFA ALUMNI INTERN 1999

CLEMENTS HIGH SCHOOL, CLASS OF 1999

B.A. BIOLOGY FROM UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT AUSTIN, 2003

MEDICAL SCHOOL AT ST. GEORGE'S UNIVERSITY, GRANADA, 2004

INTERNSHIP INTERNAL MEDICINE ALAMEDA COUNTY MEDICAL CENTER,

UCSF PROGRAM 2008-2009

RESIDENT, UT HOUSTON DEPARTMENT OF ANESTHESIOLOGY 2009-2012

At 14, I was terrified the first day at AFA. I didn't know what to expect but what I ultimately found has served me throughout high school, college, medical school, and now, in my residency. What stood out for me was how quickly the expectations were to perform at a high level but without the pressures that usually come along with them. Without knowing it at the time, AFA was developing a mentality, an appreciation for the arts, and a platform for me to grow as a person. What I learned at AFA continues to influence me profoundly: responsibility on the individual level, to be ready to perform so that the whole group can succeed, respect for diversity of culture and ethnic background, and hard work with perseverance. But ultimately, it was the opportunity to live through the music and breathe its substance rather than just playing notes that has stayed with me and that I hope will influence my future in my aspiration to become a practicing physician.