



## River Oaks Chamber Orchestra

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When Alecia Lawyer founded ROCO in 2005, she knew she wanted to start something different. Houston already had an establishment of talented and successful performing arts organizations but she felt there was room for another. She knew there was another way, perhaps even a better way.

Alecia wanted to start something a little different, a little unexpected. She wanted to build something that was not only about great performances, but about great connections. ROCO was committed to being about connections between musicians, connections with the audience and connections amongst the community. ROCO wanted to appeal to all generations with programs for seniors and music education programs for young children. And ROCO wanted to perform a wide repertoire of music, from known classics to the works of lesser known and contemporary composers. Alecia created ROCO to be something more, something daring and artistically challenging yet, something friendly and accessible to all.

Today, ROCO is a professional chamber orchestra of 40 select musicians from Houston and all over the world, creating and collaborating together in a way unlike any other chamber orchestra in the country. While ROCO has a wide repertoire, it is known for its commitment to creating new music. By the end of our 10th season, we will have world premiered 41 original commissions and counting. Endless creative energy is generated through the rotation of talented guest conductors and featured artists. ROCO instills a culture of creative collaborations that result in varied programming and a range of interpretations. Yet it, always presented in the unique ROCO style, approachable, conversational and personal with access to the musicians at Take 5 and after the concert along with interviews and discussions during the concerts plus personal sponsorships available for each ROCO musician.

Furthermore, ROCO live streams its concerts to The Hallmark senior community and buses seniors to ROCO concerts. ROCO offers its concerts for free to MD Anderson as Video on Demand for their patient community with plans to expand to other hospitals by the end of the year. ROCO Rooters offers music education and childcare to children 2 months to 10 years during our Saturday evening concerts. ROCO concerts can be heard for free on Performance Today nationally or via ROCO Replay, our online listening store that offers free recordings of past ROCO concerts.

Today, ROCO performs a repertoire unlike any other chamber orchestra in Houston, performed in a style unlike any chamber orchestra in the country by a group of talented musicians unparalleled in their commitment to the organization and each other. In 2005, Alecia Lawyer was determined to build an orchestra that offered something unlike anything else in Houston. Nearly ten years later, we have all discovered that she ending up building an orchestra that offers something unlike anything else in the world.