

AYO Milestones

1990	Founded by Richard Pontziou. AYO performs debut concert in Kumamoto under the baton of Founding Music Director Yehudi Menuhin.
1993	European debut tour includes concerts in Amsterdam's historic Concertgebouw and Leipzig's Gewandhaus and Vienna's Konzerthaus.
1995	North American tour includes concerts at the United Nations, White House and Hollywood Bowl.
1996	In Hanoi, AYO becomes first international orchestra in more than 50 years to perform in Vietnam.
1997	Concerts with cellist Yo-Yo Ma in Beijing's Great Hall of the People and Hong Kong's Convention and Exhibition Centre mark the territory's reunification with China.
1999	Distinguished violinist, humanitarian and AYO Founding Music Director Yehudi Menuhin passed away.
2000	Australia debut includes concerts in Sydney's iconic Opera House for the Olympic Arts Festival.
2002	AYO Founder Richard Pontziou named Artistic Director & Conductor.
2006	First concerts in China, in Chongqing, Zhongshan and Foshan. Debut concerts in Shanghai at newly opened Oriental Arts Centre.
2010	Celebrates 20 th Anniversary. AYO receives Japan's Praemium Imperiale Grant For Young Artists Award, for achievements and role in enriching global community.
2012	AYO performs in Arahama, a small town in Fukushima, Japan, destroyed by the giant tsunami of March 11, 2011, to remember those lost and to inspire those working so bravely to recover.
2015	AYO celebrates 25 th Anniversary. Performs Beethoven's Symphony No. 9 Ode to Joy with 300-musician orchestra and a 300-member chorus at Hong Kong Coliseum.

2016	AYO Founder Richard Pontzious awarded Hong Kong's Silver Bauhinia Star for his work in guiding AYO from its founding to international recognition.
2017	Completes a three-continent 20-concert World Tour to celebrate 20 th Anniversary of the establishment of the HKSAR Government.
2020	Covid-19 pandemic forces the annual AYO Rehearsal Camp and Tour to be cancelled. In December, AYO loses Richard Pontzious. The Board of Directors commit to sustaining and continuing his legacy in the orchestra.
2021	AYO launches virtual Summer Masterclass Series as the global pandemic continues.