

Metropolitan Youth Symphony
Diana Scoggins, Executive Director
dscoggins@playmys.org
503-239-4566
www.playmys.org

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Metropolitan Youth Symphony (MYS) Announces 2018 ‘Crescendo Honors’ Awards to Local and National Recipients

Metropolitan Youth Symphony’s upcoming annual gala recognizes the importance of strong, innovative and collaborative leaders who make an impact on the hundreds of students MYS educates through its music programming. To express its gratitude to the greater community, MYS will present the following awards:

- The **Community Partner Award** recognizes Portland City Commissioner Nick Fish for his tremendous leadership and service to the arts as City Commissioner, arts fan, and advocate. Commissioner Fish believes that art and culture are the soul of our city. He is proud to serve as the City’s Arts Commissioner and liaison to the Regional Arts and Culture Council, and previously served as Vice Chair of the Oregon Cultural Trust. During his tenure on the City Council, Nick has worked with the community to restore arts education in our schools, promote equity and access to the arts, preserve and expand affordable spaces for artists and arts organizations, and protect grant funding for local artists. His steadfast vision for what is possible has served to shape attitudes, shape culture, and increase awareness in ways that are invaluable to the greater community in Portland.
- The **Musical Hero Award** recognizes Thomas Novak, Interim President, Provost and Dean of New England Conservatory, whose 2013-2017 service on the MYS Board inspired us as to what MYS could be. Tom’s endorsement and encouragement of Music Director Andres Lopera (2012-2015) was fundamental to MYS’ artistic leap forward; his vision for our advanced chamber ensemble, MYSfits, and ongoing willingness to sponsor an annual residency with chamber musicians from “A Far Cry” has made MYSfits the unique self-conducted ensemble that they are today; and his participation in the selection of Music Director Raul Gomez has ensured that excellence, innovation, and commitment to access continue across the organization. Tom’s belief in outstanding music education, young people, and the joy of music making aligns perfectly with the mission of MYS and has impacted hundreds of aspiring musicians over the decades.

Awards will be presented at the MYS Crescendo Gala, held on Friday, April 6th at Castaway Portland. The evening, emceed by All Classical Portland Host Christa Wessel, is brought to you by title sponsor, Yorke & Curtis. Guests will celebrate with appetizers, dinner, musical performances, wine raffles, and silent and live auctions. All funds raised will support MYS's music program and music access initiatives. ^[1]_[SEP]

About Metropolitan Youth Symphony (MYS): ^[1]_[SEP] MYS educates, develops and promotes young musicians. The organization enrolls over 500 youth, ages 5- 18, from the Greater Portland Metro area and SW Washington, in 14 orchestra, band, percussion, and jazz ensembles each year. MYS is one of the largest youth music organizations in the country and one of the few that offer a jazz program. MYS' strong tuition assistance program and tuition-free beginning strings class for low-income children ensure that all interested musicians have an opportunity to play an instrument if they wish, regardless of their financial circumstances.

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