



**For Immediate Release:**

**The Metropolitan Youth Symphony in Collaboration with the Pacific Youth Choir Celebrates Hispanic Musical Heritage with “Cantando”**

PORTLAND, OR (November 27, 2018) - With its next Downtown Series concert entitled “Cantando,” The Metropolitan Youth Symphony brings together myriad branches of Portland’s Hispanic community in a high-energy musical celebration of Latino culture. Raúl Gómez, the symphony’s charismatic and talented Costa Rican Music Director, will conduct rarely heard masterpieces from Mexico, Costa Rica, the Dominican Republic, Argentina, and Columbia for a rich and colorful program with wide appeal. By way of innovative partnerships with Portland Mercado, Latino Network, Milagro, Univisión Portland, and Multnomah County’s Bienestar de la Familia Social Service Program, the event will highlight the ways in which the local Hispanic community contributes to Portland's vibrant spirit.

To deepen programmatic impact, this concert not only features the young musicians of MYS, but also those of the Pacific Youth Choir, “the gold standard for youth choral programs around the country.” (Matthew Oltman, Music Director Emeritus, Chanticleer)

The diverse selection of music runs the gamut from show-stopping rhythms, to heart-wrenching harmonies, to melodies smoldering with intrigue. The cheerfully characteristic Mexican work **Sinfonietta** by **José Pablo Moncayo**, performed by the Symphony Orchestra, opens the

program to immediately set the mood - audiences will feel like saddling up the horses to this music! The two ensembles join forces for **Juan David Osorio's *Suite de Villancicos Latinoamericanos*** which skillfully showcases the villancico, a poetic and musical form of the Iberian Peninsula and Latin America, popular during the late 15th to 18th centuries. The Pacific Youth Choir will offer **Lars Jansson's impressively powerful *To The Mothers in Brazil: Salve Regina*** without orchestra. The Symphony Orchestra then performs ***Danzón No. 8* by Arturo Márquez**, inspired by the music and environs of Mexico's Veracruz region. To close the program, the symphony and choir perform Costa Rican composer and director **Carlos Guzmán's lush and evocative *Cantos de Guanacaste***.

Partner organizations will each have a booth onsite at the concert with materials available for attendees. Features in the concert program will highlight the ways in which each of these organizations contribute to the vitality, health and diversity of our community.

**Sunday, January 6, 2019, 7:30pm**

**at the Newmark Theater in Downtown Portland**

**Tickets for Cantando: \$11 - \$35 at [playmys.org](http://playmys.org) or call 503.239.4566**

Arts for All tickets are available to Oregon Trailcard holders for only \$5 per ticket

With a foundational commitment to access, the **Metropolitan Youth Symphony** educates, develops and promotes over 500 young musicians of all ages and levels of experience each year in one of the nation's largest youth orchestra programs. Learn more at [playmys.org](http://playmys.org).

**Pacific Youth Choir** changes lives through high level choral artistry in an open, joyful, and nurturing environment. Through practice, performance, and education singers build their skills and emerge as confident young adults with a lifelong love of music. PYC strives to inspire audiences as they work together to create musical excellence. Learn more at [pacificyouthchoir.org](http://pacificyouthchoir.org).

**For additional information, media materials and interview inquiries, please contact:**

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