

For Immediate Release:
**Metropolitan Youth Symphony Collaborates with the
International Youth Silent Film Festival to
Present Young Filmmakers and Composers**

PORTLAND, OR (November, 2019): **Metropolitan Youth Symphony** (MYS) continues its dynamic 46th season with Lights, Camera, Music! on January 12, 2020. This unprecedented collaborative concert with the **International Youth Silent Film Festival** (IYSFF) celebrates young contemporary voices in film and composition.

Lights, Camera, Music! will show ten award-winning short films by young filmmakers from around the world with MYS's Symphony Orchestra performing new arrangements of IYSFF's resident organist and composer **Nathan Avakian's** film soundtracks. Local composers from Fear no Music's Young Composers Project will adapt these innovative scores, originally for pipe organ, for full orchestra.

The concert also includes *Odyssey Overture for Orchestra* by Portland's own **Nicole Buetti**. Buetti's new work is dedicated to her father, who instilled in her a love for science and science fiction films such as *Star Trek*, and *Star Wars*. Following its World Premiere last fall with the Vancouver Symphony Orchestra, the piece received a glowing review in *Oregon ArtsWatch* which noted its "colorful, confident orchestration" and "gorgeous melody...If Bartók had Gone West to write music for action movies, it might have sounded like this."

Additionally, MYS performs Jean Gennin's *Fluttering Birds*, duet for two piccolos featuring Concerto Competition Winners Molly Duggan and Ben Hosking on piccolo. Gennin was a master of composing airy music for flute and piccolo. He and his brother, Pierre, performed with the Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra in the United Kingdom, and were considered stars of early British Broadcasting.

As music major at Portland Community College, Molly Duggan has been awarded with a scholarship from PCC for her excellence in music performance. Last year she went on the international tour with MYS as principal flutist and soloist in Italy and Austria, playing in multiple music festivals. She shares ownership of Canter Music Shop, a flute repair business in Beaverton, with Darren Cook, and is currently the youngest flute technician ever to receive their Straubinger Certification.



Benjamin Hosking is a senior at Lakeridge High School. He has played the flute since 2013 and has played the piccolo since 2017. Benjamin has played with the Lakeridge High School Wind Ensemble for 3 years as the Principal Flutist. He is the Co-Principal Flutist and has been playing with the Metropolitan Youth Symphony for three years. Benjamin performed with the OMEA All-State Symphonic Band in 2018 and will be playing with the OMEA All-State Symphony Orchestra in 2020. Last summer, Benjamin

participated in the MYS Italy/Austria tour, performing in venues across Italy and Austria.

The concert closes with 'Hooray for Hollywood,' an artfully constructed film music medley that culminates an evening filled with old Hollywood charm. The overture features musical quotes including "There's No Business Like Show Business," "That's Entertainment" and many more.

WHAT:

LIGHTS, CAMERA, MUSIC!

WHEN/WHERE:

Sunday, January 12, 2020 at 7:30 pm | The Newmark Theatre

PROGRAM:

Nicole Buetti, *Odyssey Overture for Orchestra*

Jean Gennin, *Fluttering Birds, duet for two piccolos*; featuring Molly Duggan and Ben Hosking

Nathan Avakian, film soundtracks, arranged by Young Composers Project students

"Hooray for Hollywood," Overture

TICKETS:

Tickets: \$5-\$38 at playmys.org or call 503-239-4566

Jon "JP" Palanuk founded the **International Youth Silent Film Festival** in 2009 after attending a live theatre organ concert which inspired him to "create a competition where young filmmakers can create their own silent movies." Filmmakers are all under 20 years old and use one of seven original musical themes composed for the festival by Nathan Avakian. The Festival has grown over the past eight years to include international submissions and screenings across the United States, with the annual Portland award show taking place at The Hollywood Theatre.

Last season, MYS launched **The Authentic Voice** series in partnership with **Fear No Music's** Young Composers Project. The partnership gives young composers an opportunity to write for and hear their work performed by full symphony orchestra, while giving ensemble musicians a chance to play never performed music by their peers. "By way of the unprecedented opportunity that this program provides, Portland is becoming a leader in the development of the next generation of composers." (Jeff Payne, founder of the Young Composers Project)

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. Operating fourteen ensembles at beginning to advanced levels including orchestra, band, percussion, and jazz, MYS nurtures the whole musician, providing theory classes, instrumental coaching, small groups, and opportunities to collaborate with performers across artistic disciplines. Committed to providing students with a wide range of artistic experiences, MYS partners with diverse organizations from around the community and beyond. Past collaborators include Oregon Symphony Maestro Carlos Kalmar and members of the Oregon Symphony, Mariachi Una Voz (Hillsboro) and Mariachi Tradición (Forest Grove), composer Gabriela Lena Frank, the Grammy nominated chamber ensemble A Far Cry, Friends of Chamber Music and the Brooklyn-based PROJECT Trio, YOA Orchestra of the Americas, BodyVox's Junior Artist Generator, and Oregon International Ballet Academy.

Conductor, violinist, and violist **Raúl Gómez** begins his fourth season as Music Director of the Metropolitan Youth Symphony. Recently selected as one of six conductors to be featured in the League of American Orchestra's 2018 Bruno Walter National Conductor Preview, Mr. Gómez competed for the honor with nearly 150 applicants from around the world. Hosted by the Nashville Symphony and music director Giancarlo Guerrero, the Preview selects conductors for their "experience, talent, leadership, and commitment to a career in service to American orchestras." A native of Costa Rica, Mr. Gómez's recent and upcoming engagements include multiple appearances with the Louisiana Philharmonic Orchestra, the Oregon Symphony, the Chamber Orchestra of San Antonio and Acadiana Symphony Orchestra, as well as appearances in Mexico, Brazil and Costa Rica. Previously he has held positions with youth orchestras in Louisiana and Mississippi, and at the YOA Orchestra of the Americas. Gómez received masters and doctoral degrees from Louisiana State University where he studied with Carlos Riazuelo (conducting), Kevork Mardirossian and Espen Lilleslåtten (violin/viola). Additional conducting training includes a fellowship at the Aspen Music Festival.

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