



raúl gómez
MUSIC DIRECTOR

For Immediate Release:
**The Metropolitan Youth Symphony Brings the Energy with
Beethoven 7 and the World Premiere of *Hidden Voices***

The Metropolitan Youth Symphony "offers not only a chance to encounter some excellent music we should all be hearing more often on classical concerts, but also these accomplished young musicians and their visionary conductor." - Oregon ArtsWatch (January 2, 2019)

PORTLAND, OR (September 16, 2019): Following a superbly enriching summer tour to Europe, the Metropolitan Youth Symphony (MYS) opens its 2019-20 season on November 10th with a beautifully crafted program centered around the tour de force, Beethoven 7. This concert fittingly begins a season that is full of energy, optimism and brand new music.

BEETHOVEN 7

Sunday, November 10, 2019, 7:30 pm; The Arlene Schnitzer Concert Hall

MYS Symphony Orchestra, Music Director Raúl Gómez

Kevin Tsai (MYS Concerto Competition Winner, Strings)

PROGRAM:

Joan Tower, *For the Uncommon Woman*

Matthew Kaminski, *Hidden Voices*, World Premiere (part of The Authentic Voice program)

Henryk Wieniawski, *Violin Concerto No. 2* (movement 1)

Ludwig van Beethoven, *Symphony No. 7*

Tickets: \$5 - \$43 at www.playmys.org or call 503-239-4566

Nicknamed "The Apotheosis of the Dance," Beethoven's *Symphony No. 7* kickstarts the season's momentum with the ultimate symphonic dance experience. Lifting themes in the first movement give

way to the slow and steady but captivating pulse of the second which develops with swirling, layered melodies. Forward motion builds through the raucous and unrelenting 3rd and 4th movements which creates a most satisfying drive to the very end. This performance anticipates and celebrates the 250th anniversary of Beethoven's birth in 2020.

Music Director Raúl Gómez also leads the Symphony Orchestra in the WORLD PREMIERE of Matthew Kaminski's *Hidden Voices*. This is the first of three symphonic premieres by young composers which comprise this season's Authentic Voice program, presented in partnership with Fear No Music's Young Composers Project and made possible through the generous support of Ronni Lacroute (read more about The Authentic Voice below.) A pianist and multiple award-winning composer, Matthew is a member of Cascadia Composers and recently attended the Brevard Music Center Summer Institute as one of four high school composition students selected for the program. His lyrical and impassioned yet reflective piece *Hidden Voices* draws inspiration from the emotions surrounding massive statewide budget cuts in education, which were predicted to cut jobs for roughly a third of the teachers at Matthew's high school. Soft around the edges, this new work represents the often silenced voices of teachers who lack power in the face of government, especially when jobless. An unresolved ending points to the possibility of hope but also to the fact that this issue is ongoing, reoccurring and often without resolution. (Photo above: Matthew Kaminski)



MYS's annual Concerto Competition inspires the organization's most ambitious students to hone their craft through the mastery of challenging and mature solo repertoire. Last year's winner in the strings category was Lake Oswego High School senior Kevin Tsai, who has played the violin for twelve years and studies with renowned soloist, concertmaster and Artistic Director (Montana Baroque Festival), Adam LaMotte. With this performance, Kevin solos in the wistful and restless first movement from *Violin Concerto No. 2* by Polish violin virtuoso Henryk Wieniawski. The piece calls for an impressive array of advanced violin performance technique including chromatic glissandi, double stops, arpeggios, sixths, octaves, thirds, chromatic scales, and artificial harmonics, in addition to a wide variety of bowing techniques which Kevin handles with aplomb.

(Photo left: Kevin Tsai)

Joan Tower enjoys a well-deserved reputation as one of the most important American composers living today. The final work in her series of four fanfares dedicated to adventurous, risk-taking women, *For the Uncommon Woman*, makes a clear statement in reference to MYS's commitment to inclusive programming. Of its premiere in 1992, *The Kansas City Star* reported it to be "a brilliant orchestra showpiece compacted within a 4 ½-minute span. Great slabs of dissonant brass chords crunch up against each other, and then chattering figurations run their way through the whole orchestra until a sonorous apotheosis is reached." For more information about this work and Joan's illustrious career, visit the G. Schirmer website at musicsalesclassical.com.

Experience the energy and optimism of the Metropolitan Youth Symphony, November 10th at The Arlene Schnitzer Concert Hall!

Metropolitan Youth Symphony

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.

Additional Upcoming Downtown Series Concerts:

LIGHTS, CAMERA, MUSIC!

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

This unprecedented collaborative concert with the International Youth Silent Film Festival celebrates new voices in film and composition.

REGINA CARTER PLAYS 4 SISTERS

Sunday, March 8, 2020, 7:30 pm; The Arlene Schnitzer Concert Hall

This very special concert brings guest artist Regina Carter to Portland audiences, as she joins the advanced MYS Symphony Orchestra as soloist in the West Coast Premiere of David Schiff's *4 Sisters* jazz violin concerto.

DANCE PARTY: THEN AND NOW!

Sunday, May 24, 2020, 7:30pm; The Arlene Schnitzer Concert Hall

This groove infused, high energy program features dance music from the past 150 years, from countries including Germany, Austria, the Czech Republic, Armenia, Mexico, Brazil, and the US.

The Authentic Voice

Last season, MYS launched The Authentic Voice commissioning program in partnership with Fear No Music's Young Composers Project to "teach young musicians to use their artistry to empower others and create joy in the world." (Raúl Gómez, Music Director) 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. Following a tremendously successful initial year, the program expands in this, its second season, to include:

- Three symphonic commissions of new works by local, student composers, developed through Fear No Music’s Young Composers Project “which provides unparalleled training and performance opportunities for promising composers” (*Lake Oswego Review*)
- World Premieres of each of these works performed by the MYS Symphony Orchestra at the Arlene Schnitzer Concert Hall
- Eight YCP student arrangements of Nathan Avakian’s pipe organ film scores for full orchestra, with two scores arranged by students from Costa Rica performed to film by MYS at the Newmark Theatre in January
- Further opportunities for readings and performances of works by younger composers with other MYS ensembles, including the Concert Orchestra, Vivaldi Strings, Symphonic Band, and MYSticks Percussion Ensemble

The Authentic Voice program is made possible through the generous support of Ronni Lacroute.

Fear No Music, Young Composers Project

Fear No Music promotes music education through the high quality public performance of modern and contemporary classical music, and by offering groundbreaking youth mentorship in composition (grades 6 -12) through its Young Composers Project, answering a call to encourage and cultivate musical curiosity and creativity in the next generation. Learn more at ycp.fearnomusic.org.

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

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