

For Immediate Release:
**Metropolitan Youth Symphony Shifts to Online Educational
Programming and Announces Spring Virtual Concert**

PORTLAND, OR (May 2020): Metropolitan Youth Symphony (MYS) has shifted its focus to online performances and rehearsals as well as online educational programming to provide its students and community with a musical and educational outlet during this time.

As an arts organization serving youth, MYS is committed to providing continued resources for our students., “With our online offerings, we are not only keeping our students engaged and motivated, we are also allowing their families at home to enjoy the content together,” says Music Director Raúl Gómez. “Our weekday Hangouts provide insightful and fun conversations with leading artists and educators, and our Saturday rehearsals explore a wide range of topics for all of our ensembles and age groups.”

Virtual Concert Finale: MYS will be holding a Virtual Concert to celebrate the conclusion of the 2020 Spring Term. On **Saturday, May 30 at 7pm**, each MYS conductor will introduce their group's virtual performance comprised of our students' home recordings, with works ranging from Andrew Lloyd Webber, to Miles Davis and Tchaikovsky. The entire concert will be streamed on our YouTube Channel (www.youtube.com/c/metropolitanyouthsymphony) and hosted live by MYS Music Director Raúl Gómez.

Virtual Hangouts: MYS Music Director Raúl Gomez hosts a daily YouTube show “MYS Virtual Hangouts” from **Tuesday-Friday at 4pm** on the MYS YouTube Channel (www.youtube.com/c/metropolitanyouthsymphony). Past guests include Oregon Symphony (OSO) Artist-in-Residence Johannes Moser, composer Gabriela Lena Frank, OSO Principal Cello Nancy Ives, Kenji Bunch, and more! These virtual conversations include light-hearted life stories, musical advice and even world premiere collaborations with local artists.

Online Learning: MYS has been offering its students Saturday online learning opportunities since late March. We will continue with our new Saturday sessions through May. Teachers with our tuition-free Beginning Strings Program are also reaching out to their students through online lessons and curriculum offerings.

2020-21 Season Registration: MYS welcomes students at all levels of musical experience and from all backgrounds to register for the 2020-21 Season. With 15 orchestra, band, jazz, percussion and string ensembles in Portland and Hillsboro and tuition assistance available, there is an opportunity for everyone. Students enjoy performance opportunities at venues throughout the metro area, including the Newmark Theatre and Arlene Schnitzer Concert Hall. To accommodate social distancing guidelines, auditions for the upcoming Season will be held via video. Simply register via the MYS website at www.playmys.org and we will send you

instructions for video submission. Audition videos will be accepted **June 1 through August 14, 2020**.

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