

## Metropolitan Youth Symphony Invites You to Opening Night with Dvořák and a Dance Suite

*This performance will kick off MYS' 2022-23 season with compositions from renowned composers Dvořák, Schubert, and Debussy, along with original works by local young composers.*



### PORTLAND, ORE., OCTOBER 12, 2022 –

Metropolitan Youth Symphony is proud to present opening night of its 2022-23 season on November 13 at the Arlene Schnitzer Concert Hall: *“From the New World.”* Led by MYS Music Director Raúl Gómez-Rojas, MYS’ Symphony Orchestra will showcase Antonin Dvořák’s Symphony No. 9, *New World Symphony*, as well as the world premiere of a collaborative Dance Suite by student composers from **The Authentic Voice** commissioning series.

“Our top orchestra started the year already playing at a very impressive level, and even still, they have demonstrated a tremendous amount of growth in only a few short weeks. They are playing Dvořák with great passion, precision, and artistry, while enjoying bringing to life brand new music created by fellow young musicians,” says Gómez-Rojas. “This concert will not only be a chance for them to showcase their talent and growth, but also for the community to catch a glimpse of the next generation of masterful musicians at work.”

The full concert program can be found below.

### Opening Night – From the New World

Symphony Orchestra, Concert Orchestra

November 13, 2022, 7:30pm at Arlene Schnitzer Concert Hall

- **Antonín Dvořák’s *Symphony No.9, op.95, E minor*:** This 1893 orchestral masterpiece, reflective of both Old and New World styles and themes, was created by Bohemian composer Antonín Dvořák while he lived in New York City in the early 1890s. As one of the first classical compositions to draw inspiration from New World music and lore, this piece was purportedly inspired by Dvořák’s reflections on American South spirituals and Native American traditions while incorporating stylistic elements of “Old World” sources. The MYS Symphony Orchestra will perform all four movements: *Adagio - Allegro molto, Largo, Molto vivace, and Allegro con fuoco.*
- **Dance Suite:** In its fifth year, **The Authentic Voice** commissioning series will feature a collaborative Dance Suite by student composers Skye Neal, Amir Avsker, Aidan Bagby, Adrian Valenzuela, and Kate Andrews. In partnership with **Fear No Music’s Young Composer’s Project**, this series showcases the fully orchestrated compositions of student composers at MYS concerts. Student composers enjoy the rare opportunity to see their work performed by a full orchestra while MYS musicians play never-performed works by their peers.
- **MYS is also proud to present its Concert Orchestra, conducted by Jeffrey Peyton**, with Franz Schubert’s *Rosamunde Overture*, Gabriel Faure’s *Pelléas et Mélisande*, and *My Neighbor Totoro* for orchestra by Joe Hisaishi.

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Ticket prices range from \$11-\$45. Tickets are now available for purchase, with additional information available at [www.playmys.org](http://www.playmys.org) or 503-239-4566.

### ***About the Authentic Voice***

In partnership with Fear No Music's Young Composers Project, MYS will continue its fifth year of The Authentic Voice commissioning series. The partnership gives young composers an opportunity to write for full symphony orchestra and to hear their work performed, while musicians get to play brand new music written by their peers. During the composition process, each student composer hears their piece played by MYS students on multiple occasions, allowing opportunities for questions, feedback, revisions, and collaboration. While student compositions were initially only performed by the Symphony Orchestra, The Authentic Voice has expanded to include Concert Orchestra, and the Portland Camerata, MYSticks, and MYSfits ensembles.

### ***About Music Director Raúl Gómez-Rojas***

Conductor, violinist, and violist Raúl Gómez-Rojas begins his seventh season as Music Director of the Metropolitan Youth Symphony. Lauded as a "visionary conductor" (Oregon ArtsWatch), Gómez-Rojas inspires audiences and artists of all ages and backgrounds to use music as a vehicle for connecting with others. Recent highlights include performances with the Oregon Symphony, the Louisiana Philharmonic Orchestra, and guest artists as diverse as Regina Carter, Boyz 2 Men, Lyle Lovett, The Tenors, Kermit Ruffins, the 610 Stompers, and Rick Springfield.

Gómez-Rojas was selected as one of six conductors to be featured in the League of American Orchestra's 2018 Bruno Walter National Conductor Preview, after competing for the honor with nearly 150 applicants from around the world. He received masters and doctoral degrees from Louisiana State University where he studied with Carlos Riazuelo (conducting), Kevork Mardirossian and Espen Lilleslåtten (violin/viola). His conducting training also includes a fellowship at the Aspen Music Festival.

### ***About the Metropolitan Youth Symphony***

With a foundational commitment to make music education accessible to all, the Metropolitan Youth Symphony educates, develops, and promotes young musicians of all ages and levels of experience each year, with enrollment of nearly 400 students in the 2022-23 season. MYS is one of the nation's largest youth orchestra programs, with students from six counties participating in fourteen ensembles including orchestra, strings, band, percussion, and jazz. Together with theory classes, instrumental coaching in small groups, and opportunities to collaborate with performers across artistic disciplines, MYS ensemble programs develop the whole musician.

MYS provides free string lessons for low-income students, as well as tuition assistance, loaner instruments, and in-school concerts at Title 1 schools. MYS ensembles reflect a broad diversity of cultures and life experiences while fostering a tight-knit community through music, collaboration, peer support, and self-expression.