

Metropolitan Youth Symphony Brings “The Magic of Eric Carle” to the Newmark Theatre Stage

Celebrating the life, legacy, and artistic contributions of Eric Carle through animation, live orchestral music, and narration.



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Metropolitan Youth Symphony’s January 8th concert (4:00pm) will bring five of Eric Carle’s most beloved stories – *The Very Hungry Caterpillar*, *I See A Song*, *The Mixed-Up Chameleon*, *The Very Quiet Cricket*, and *Papa, Please Get The Moon For Me* – to the stage with a unique and collaborative mix of animation, live orchestral music, and narration. Perfect for the young and young at heart, this concert will feature original compositions by English composer Julian Nott performed by MYS’ Symphony Orchestra, a screening of animations

by Illuminated Films, and live narration courtesy of All Classical Portland’s International Children’s Arts Network (ICAN).

“It is an honor to pay tribute to Carle’s storytelling mastery in this way,” says MYS Music Director Raúl Gómez-Rojas. “Many of our students grew up alongside his stories, and are now able to use their passion for music to interact with these iconic characters in a whole new way. We are excited to share this novel collaboration with community members of all ages, providing our audience with a vision for all that instrumental music can accomplish in the intimate and immersive setting of the Newmark Theatre.”

Award-winning animated film *The Very Hungry Caterpillar & Other Stories*, created by British animation studio Illuminated Films, will help bring the stories to life on the big screen. MYS’ Symphony Orchestra will perform the gentle and colorful music originally created for the film by British composer and conductor Julian Nott, with orchestrations by Nic Raine. Nott is best-known for his work with acclaimed animations such as *Wallace and Gromit* and *Peppa Pig*.

Providing narration of Carle’s stories is All Classical Portland’s late afternoon host and producer of *On Deck with Young Musicians* and *Thursdays @ Three* Christa Wessel; internationally renowned flutist, All Classical Portland On Air Host, and MYS Flute Ensemble Director Adam Eccleston; ICAN’s Program Manager, Host, and Producer Sarah Zwinklis; and Third Rail Repertory Theatre’s Sarah Smith.



Before and after the show, aspiring musicians will have an opportunity to try out instruments at MYS' instrument petting zoo.

MYS' Symphony Orchestra will also present Klaus Badelt's *Pirates of the Caribbean* and Julian Nott's *Theme and Chase from Wallace and Gromit*.

"The Magic of Eric Carle" will take place on January 8, 2023, at the Newmark Theatre. Starting at 4:00pm, it has an expected run time of 60+ minutes. Tickets range from \$11-\$40, and are now available for purchase at www.playmys.org or 503-239-4566.

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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.

About Illuminated Films

Illuminated Films is an award-winning British animation studio with several successful series under its belt, including the 4-time BAFTA nominated 'Little Princess' series, Eric Carle's 'The Very Hungry Caterpillar and Other Stories', and the ratings success 'The Rubbish World of Dave Spud' for CITV. Illuminated is also the distributor of the Raymond Briggs special 'Father Christmas'. Other animated titles it has produced include award winning 'War Game', 'Prince Cinders' and the feature film

'Christmas Carol – The Movie' with voices including Kate Winslet and Nicholas Cage and also featuring the music of Julian Nott.

About Composer Julian Nott

Julian Nott is the composer of some of the World's best known children's music. His music for Peppa Pig is broadcast in most countries of the World and his scores for the Wallace and Gromit films have lodged themselves into the fabric of many people's lives.

Julian started off as a music scholar at Oxford University, before moving into management consulting for a few years with the international consulting firm Accenture. Missing music, he then abandoned business to enrol in the UK's National Film and Television School, to attend their film scoring course.

As a composer, Julian has won an Annie Award and an Ivor Novello Award. He was for many years a regular composer for BBC drama (and Masterpiece Theatre), for example with four seasons of the popular drama series "Lark Rise to Candleford" to his name. His extensive music scoring portfolio includes work as varied as "Tales from the Crypt" to a film in the "Wonderful World of Disney" series for ABC.

About All Classical Portland's International Children's Arts Network

The International Children's Arts Network (ICAN) is a dedicated safe space for children to celebrate the joy of being a child, explore other cultures, and enhance their learning inside and outside of the classroom. ICAN's 24-hour radio service, the first of its kind in the nation, provides access to the arts for all, while nurturing a love for music and literature. ICAN's diverse music, arts, and literature programming is curated for children ages 0-12 and the adults who care for them. Listen regionally on All Classical Portland's HD-2 channels, streaming and on demand ICANradio.org, and via mobile app. Learn more at ICANradio.org.