

Metropolitan Youth Symphony
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Metropolitan Youth Symphony Announces 2017 ‘Crescendo Honor’ Awards to Local Recipients

Metropolitan Youth Symphony’s upcoming annual gala focuses on the importance of collaborative community leaders who make an impact on the hundreds of students MYS educates through its music programming. To further express its gratitude to the greater musical community, MYS will present three newly established ‘Crescendo Honor’ awards. MYS congratulates the following recipients:

- The **Musical Hero Award** will be presented to MYS Founder, Lajos Balogh. For 38 seasons Maestro Balogh led MYS in his vision to educate, develop, and promote young musicians from all backgrounds and levels of ability. This award applauds Mr. Balogh for his creative and inspired leadership, which grew the organization in the ways that best served its students. Through his decades-long commitment to young people, Mr. Balogh enhanced the entire community with his focus on access to music for all students.
- The **Community Partner Award** recognizes the Oregon Symphony’s outstanding commitment to provide music education opportunities to young people, to be accepted by Monica Hayes, Education and Community Programs Director. The Oregon Symphony exemplifies the meaning of partnership and collaboration, acting as a bridge between MYS students and incredible artists from Portland and beyond, and in touching thousands of young people through outreach and engagement activities such as the Studio to School program, Young People’s concerts, Prelude concerts, and the Artist in Residence program.
- The **Music Mentor Award** honors MYS Alum, Jonathan DeBruyn who founded and conducts the MYS Camerata strings ensemble as a volunteer. Mr. DeBruyn is recognized as someone in the MYS community whose exceptional commitment to sharing his pursuit of music has impacted young musicians. By sharing his passion for music by instructing others, he is a powerful example of what it means to be a mentor.

Awards will be presented at the MYS Crescendo Gala, held on Friday, April 7th at Castaway. The evening will be emceed by All Classical Portland Host Christa Wessel. The event is brought to you by title sponsor, Yorke & Curtis. Guests will enjoy beer and wine, appetizers, dinner, musical performances, wine raffles, and silent and live auctions. All funds raised will directly support MYS's music programs in providing the greater student community with access to music education.

About Metropolitan Youth Symphony (MYS):

MYS educates, develops and promotes young musicians. The organization enrolls over 500 youth, ages 5-18, from the Greater Portland Metro area and SW Washington, in 12 orchestra, band, string, and jazz ensembles each year. MYS is one of the largest youth music organizations in the country and one of the few offering a jazz program. MYS's strong tuition assistance program and tuition-free Saturday morning strings class for low-income children ensure that all interested musicians have an opportunity to join MYS, regardless of their financial circumstances.

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