

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

September 12, 2017

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## Introducing Metropolitan Youth Symphony's 44<sup>th</sup> Season!

As we enter our 44<sup>th</sup> season, Metropolitan Youth Symphony (MYS), has reason to celebrate. Our 2017 - 2018 concert season consists of three Downtown Series performances at the Arlene Schnitzer Concert Hall, one concert at the Newmark Theatre (in partnership with Friends of Chamber Music), and 12 concerts throughout the community, at schools and local venues. This August marked the one-year anniversary of **Music Director, Raúl Gómez** joining MYS. With the high quality of his artistic experience and belief in community, we continue to devote our efforts to musical excellence, access, equity, and collaboration. If you would like more information or photos from our Downtown Series and Community Concerts, visit our website at [www.playmys.org](http://www.playmys.org) or email Development Manager, Mary Overman.

### Music from the Americas | November 12 - 7:30pm

Arlene Schnitzer Concert Hall | Tickets: \$11 - \$40

Symphony Orchestra conducted by Music Director, Raúl Gómez

Also featuring performances by Concert Orchestra and Interlude Orchestra

Our opening concert celebrates the beautifully diverse musical landscape of the Americas, as we echo the Oregon Symphony's exploration of the topic of immigration within their *Sounds of Home* series. The program opens with the vibrant *Three Latin American Dances* by American composer Gabriela Lena Frank. Gabriela draws from her multicultural background to create three musical vignettes derived from pan-Amazonian dance forms. Next, George Gershwin's jazz-infused *An American in Paris* evokes the French capital in the 1920s, through the eyes and ears of a foreign visitor. Finally, student mariachi groups *Una Voz* from Hillsboro and *Tradición* from Forest Grove join our orchestra for a grand finale featuring favorite mariachi tunes.

#### Program

- » Gershwin: *American in Paris*
- » Gabriela Lena Frank: *Three Latin American Dances*
- » Selections with Mariachi Una Voz and Mariachi Tradición

### Jamming with PROJECT Trio | January 7 - 7:30pm

Newmark Theatre | Tickets: \$20 - \$35 (Not included in downtown series season tickets)

Symphony Orchestra conducted by Music Director, Raúl Gómez & PROJECT Trio

In Partnership with Friends of Chamber Music

We are thrilled to partner with Friends of Chamber Music for a fun-filled program featuring PROJECT Trio with the MYS Symphony Orchestra. PROJECT Trio is a passionate, high energy chamber music ensemble comprised of three virtuosic composer/performers from Brooklyn, New York: Peter Seymour (bass), Eric Stephenson (cello) and Greg Patillo (beatbox flute).

Blending their classical training with an eclectic taste in musical styles, PROJECT Trio offers concerts that combine the virtuosity of world-class artists with the energy of rock stars. Using social media to broaden

their reach beyond the concert stage and classroom, the Trio has its own YouTube channel, which has over 80 million views and 96,000 subscribers, making PROJECT Trio one of the most watched instrumental ensembles on the internet. Young musicians from Metropolitan Youth Symphony will join PROJECT Trio on stage for this not-to-be-missed concert. This concert is in partnership with Friends of Chamber Music. "Packed with musicianship, joy and surprise." -Downbeat Magazine review of PROJECT Trio.

**Program**

- » A high octane mix of music including rhythmically charged PROJECT Trio originals and covers ranging from classical to jazz to hip-hop.
- » Original PROJECT Trio selections

**Arabian Nights | March 4 – 7:30pm**

Arlene Schnitzer Concert Hall | Tickets: \$11 - \$40

Symphony Orchestra conducted by Music Director, Raúl Gómez

Also featuring performances by Overture Strings and Vivaldi Strings

We turn to the magic of storytelling as we feature Rimsky-Korsakov's *Scheherazade*, based on the collection of Middle Eastern folk tales *One Thousand and One Nights*. This symphonic suite takes the listener through a fantastic journey as Scheherazade entertains Sultan Schariar with fascinating tales one night after the other. The composer's dazzling orchestration and masterful musical narrative paint vivid pictures of the Persian world, and the orchestra is challenged with demanding ensemble playing and solos. At this concert we also feature the world premiere of an overture by MYS violinist and composer Katie Palka. Her work tells a story of the environment as we mirror the second theme of the Oregon Symphony's *Sounds of Home* series.

**Program**

- » Rimsky-Korsakov: *Scheherazade*
- » Commissioned piece by MYS student Katie Palka

**Season Finale: Titan | June 3 – 7:30pm**

Arlene Schnitzer Concert Hall | Tickets: \$11 - \$40

Symphony Orchestra conducted by Music Director, Raúl Gómez

Also featuring performances by Symphonic Band and the Concerto Competition Winners

Gustav Mahler's Symphony No. 1, known as "Titan," brings our season to an epic close. Written for a large orchestra of at least 100 musicians, this piece belongs in the pinnacle of symphonic repertoire, and represents a high point in the programming of any professional orchestra. MYS Symphony Orchestra will be joined by alumni from across the 44 years of MYS history plus guests from YOA Orchestra of the Americas, for what promises to be a spectacular finale. This concert will also feature winners from the 2017-18 MYS Concerto Competition and a performance by MYS Symphonic Band.

**Program**

- » Mahler: *Symphony No. 1*, Titan
- » Concerto Competition Winners

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MYS is one of the nation's largest youth symphony organizations, with 14 ensembles constituting orchestra, band, percussion, and jazz, and an enrollment of over 500 school age students from the greater Portland metro area and SW Washington. We are dedicated to excellence in music education, outreach, and community collaboration, and continue to devote time and effort to community impact, equity, growth and education.