

## Metropolitan Youth Symphony Opens 51<sup>st</sup> Season with “Carrying the Torch: Brahms’ First”

**PORTLAND, OR, October 21, 2025** – Metropolitan Youth Symphony is proud to present opening night of its 2025-26 Season: “**Carrying the Torch: Brahms’ First**” on **November 9, 7:30pm at the Arlene Schnitzer Concert Hall**. This concert is led by MYS Music Director Dr. Raúl Gómez-Rojas, marking his tenth anniversary in the role.

“Carrying the Torch” is one of three concerts this season with the overarching theme “**On the Shoulders of Giants.**” These concerts seek to honor the lineage of musical genius and affirm that the future of classical music stands firmly and brilliantly on the shoulders of giants.

The first concert “Carrying the Torch” both celebrates the towering legacy of Brahms and amplifies the composers of today and tomorrow.

Key repertoire includes:

- In ***Symphony No. 1 in C minor, Op. 68*** by **Johannes Brahms**, Brahms steps into Beethoven’s shadow and transforms reverence into bold personal voice. This piece is a celebration of the weight and the fire passed from one genius to another.
- ***Flute Concerto - Spirits of Wildness*** by **Giancarlo Castro D’Addona**: Written for flute and orchestra by award-winning composer, conductor, and trumpet player, and former MYS faculty member Giancarlo Castro D’Addona, and performed by award-winning soloist, orchestral flutist, and MYS Symphonic Winds conductor Adam Eccleston. Eccleston also commissioned this work, made possible by an Arts3C grant from The Regional Arts and Culture Council.
- The world premiere of ***Erin’s First Sabbath***, a tone poem for orchestra, by local young composer **Maxwell Evans-McGlothlin**. Evans-McGlothlin presents this composition through *The Authentic Voice*, MYS’ student commissioning series in partnership with [Fear No Music’s Young Composers Project](#).
- MYS’ Concert Orchestra will open the concert with ***Symphony for Small Orchestra*** by **Dame Ethel Smyth**, also conducted by Raúl Gómez-Rojas.



Tickets are now available for purchase, with additional information available at [playmys.org](http://playmys.org) or 503-239-4566.

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

For fifty-one years, Metropolitan Youth Symphony has celebrated its mission to educate, develop, and promote young musicians (6-18 years old) at all musical levels and from all backgrounds. With some of nation's most comprehensive programming, MYS serves 400+ students from 172 schools in 14 orchestra, winds, jazz, and string ensembles. MYS conductors are exceptional artists and educators, with instrumental coaches from the area's top music organizations, including the Oregon Symphony. MYS provides a multi-level music theory program where composition is integrated at the earliest levels, as well as a summer chamber music program with faculty from the Oregon Symphony and Grammy-nominated Boston-based chamber orchestra, A Far Cry.

Access and inclusion are core values for the organization. MYS provides free string lessons for underserved children, tuition assistance for students enrolled in its ensemble program, loaner instruments, small group coaching across its ensembles, and free in-school concerts at low-income schools that reach over 5,000 children each season. With foundational commitments to excellence and access, MYS ensembles reflect diverse backgrounds while fostering a tight-knit community through mentoring, peer support, and the joy of playing and performing music.

### ***About Adam Eccleston***



Born in Brooklyn, New York in the Little Caribbean neighborhood, conductor, radio host, educator and flutist Adam Eccleston has gained international recognition as a soloist, recitalist, chamber and orchestral musician. He has conducted ensembles in Panama, Dominican Republic, Belize, Canada and throughout the U.S. Adam has been awarded top prizes in competitions for which he was featured at Carnegie Hall and Kurhaus Wiesbaden in Germany. He was the Artist-in-Residence for All Classical Radio for two years and currently sits as Chair of the Recording Inclusivity Initiative, which brings to light the music of underrepresented composers. As a radio host and producer for All Classical Radio, Adam also guest hosts for the Young Artist Showcase on WQXR in New York City.

During his earlier years, Adam studied with flutist William Bennett in England at the age of 15 and was later hand selected by Sir James Galway to study in Switzerland at 19 years old. He holds two master's degrees in performance and education - you can find him teaching at Reed College and conducting ensembles at the Metropolitan Youth Symphony. Currently, Adam is a Powell Flute Artist as well as Executive Director and Principal flutist of Orchestra Nova Northwest.

### ***About Giancarlo Castro D'Addona***

Giancarlo Castro D'Addona, who has led our Sinfonietta Orchestra for the past four years, will now conduct Concert Orchestra! A lifelong composer, conductor, and trumpet player, Giancarlo Castro D'Addona has been recognized as one of the most exceptional artists formed in Venezuela's "El Sistema." His compositions have been performed in Carnegie Hall, Disney Concert Hall, Paris' Radio France Theater, the Royal Albert Hall, Berlin Konzerthaus, and Vienna Concertgebouw, and performed by music greats such as Laurentius Dinca (Berlin Philharmonic), Carol Jantsch (Philadelphia Orchestra), and the U.S. Marine Band. His works have been recorded under the EMI Classics, Genuin and Euroarts labels. Castro D'Addona was recognized with a gold medal at the Global Music Awards in San Diego as a composer in 2016. He has enjoyed commissions by renowned musicians, including French Euphonist Bastien Baومت and tuba player Carol Jantsch. As a conductor, he has performed with Simón Bolívar Orchestra (Venezuela), Paris Symphonic Orchestra, Orchestra and Valentiana (France), among others. Committed to using his craft to inspire youth, he joined the artist staff of Bravo Youth Orchestra in 2018 and is now a conductor with BRAVO Community Orchestra, Portland Youth Philharmonic's Wind Ensemble, as well as the principal conductor of Reed College Orchestra. Notably, on July 4, Giancarlo Castro D'Addona's new composition, "Latidos Vinotinto" was premiered in Venezuela in a national broadcast. This work was commissioned by the Venezuelan Soccer Federation not only to celebrate its change of image and the representation of the Adidas brand but also to consolidate the new alliance between the Federation and the world-famous music program "El Sistema" where Giancarlo is a founding member and one of the most representative figures of this program.

### ***About Raúl Gómez-Rojas***

Member of the 2018 class of the prestigious **Bruno Walter National Conductor Preview** (League of American Orchestras), Raúl Gómez-Rojas inspires audiences and artists of all ages and backgrounds to use music as a vehicle to connect, pursue excellence, and spread joy. Lauded as a **"visionary conductor"** (Oregon ArtsWatch), Raúl

has built a reputation as an insightful leader that **“captivates both performing musicians and audiences alike,”** and whose **“positive attitude and enthusiasm make him a joy to be with.”** Under Raúl's leadership, the Oregon Ballet Theatre Orchestra's **"precise, yet effortless playing and beautiful cohesion were both breathtaking and steadfast through the show's final note."** (Amy Leona Havin for Oregon ArtsWatch).

In high demand as a guest conductor, Raúl is equally at home on stage and in the pit, leading professional orchestras in the USA and Latin America, new music ensembles, youth, and community groups, and collaborating with a vast array of guest artists across many genres and disciplines. Recent highlights include performances with the [Oregon Symphony](#), [Rochester Philharmonic](#), [Nashville Symphony](#), [Louisiana Philharmonic](#), [Oregon Ballet Theatre](#), [Chamber Orchestra of San Antonio](#), [Portland Chamber Orchestra](#), [45th Parallel Universe](#), [Fear No Music](#), [Third Angle New Music](#), [Beaverton Symphony](#), [Tilikum Chamber Orchestra](#), the [Oregon International Ballet Academy](#), esperanza spalding, jazz violinist Regina Carter, Steward Copeland, Boyz 2 Men, Lyle Lovett, The Tenors, Kermit Ruffins, Rick Springfield and more. After a performance together in Portland in 2023, hip-hop artist [Common](#) immediately engaged Raúl to join his band on violin for their next performance in Seattle. In 2025, Raúl commissioned and conducted esperanza spalding's first-ever orchestral composition, with Metropolitan Youth Symphony (Portland, OR).

Raúl is a passionate music educator, and his skills to **“inspire children and young adults to make music to the best of their ability are astonishing”** (D. Seldis, The Royal Concertgebouw Orchestra). 2025-2026 marks Raúl's tenth season as Music Director of the [Metropolitan Youth Symphony](#) in Portland, OR, where he leads a team of 12 conductors serving over 500 students in 14 ensembles. He has led the organization to new artistic heights while creating **“concert programs that any forward-looking orchestra should envy.”** (Willamette Week). Raúl also currently serves as Music Director of [YMA: Young Musicians and Artists](#) and served as Resident Music Director (2022-2024) with [Oregon Ballet Theatre](#).

A native of Costa Rica, Raúl received full scholarships for graduate studies at Louisiana State University in violin/viola (MM, Kevork Mardirossian) and conducting (DMA, Carlos Riazuelo), and was a Conducting Fellow in the **American Academy of Conducting at the Aspen Music Festival** (2011). In 2021, Raúl was a recipient of the **Carlos Miguel Prieto Conducting Fellowship**. Beyond the podium, his work extends to frequent engagements as a violinist/violist, clinician and public speaker. From 2020 to 2024, he served as a Contributing Host and Producer for On Deck with Young Musicians on [All Classical Radio](#).

***About The Authentic Voice***

In partnership with Fear No Music's *Young Composers Project*, MYS continues its eighth year of **The Authentic Voice** commissioning series. This first-of-its-kind partnership gives young composers the opportunity to write fully orchestrated pieces that are performed at each Symphony Orchestra concert, while MYS musicians gain the opportunity to play never-performed music written by their peers. Each student composer hears their piece played by MYS students at multiple rehearsals, allowing opportunities for questions, feedback, revisions, and collaboration. While student compositions were initially only performed by Symphony Orchestra, this program has expanded to include MYS Concert Orchestra, Portland Camerata and MYSfits string ensembles, and MYSticks percussion ensemble.