



For Immediate Release:

**Fear No Music Culminates Anniversary Season
by Celebrating Black American Composers**

"unimpeachable performance credentials... and a mature sense of social justice and responsibility"
— Oregon ArtsWatch

June 9, 2022; Portland, OR: On June 20th, Fear No Music continues its landmark 30th Anniversary Season with *Tomorrow is My Turn*, a program that revisits last year's groundbreaking season of music by Black American composers through expanded collaborations. Large ensemble works feature alongside live encore performances of some of the most compelling performances from last year's virtual programming.

The highlight of the program is **the World Premiere performance of *Level Up!***, a collaborative composition for Hip Hop artist, guitar, and string ensemble, co-written/produced by the talented and cerebral lyricist C. J. Bey and composer Nicholas Emerson. The piece is a call to us all to do better - a reminder that we can always strive to improve ourselves and the lives of those around us. Bey and Emerson borrow from the fun and engaging sound world of retro video game music to embody and accompany the work's powerful message.

This concert shines a light on the incredible work of the Metropolitan Youth Symphony, whose advanced, self-conducted string ensemble, MYSfits, feature as guest performers. For the past year, MYSfits has worked under the direction of Fear No Music Artistic Director Kenji Bunch and excels in performing a wide variety of non-traditional music, from fiddle to funk and everything in between. Additionally, this event features a community partnership with Don't Shoot PDX, through which composer conversations will be shared with a wide audience, and both organizations will shine a light on Black American artist/creator role models.

Join Fear No Music to revel in the bold presentation of music that reflects cultural significance and heritage!

Tomorrow is My Turn is part of Fear No Music's 30th Anniversary Season
ReTurn: Fear No Music at 30... *a celebration of resilience and renewal*

Live concert: Monday, June 20th | 7:30pm; limited capacity at The Old Church Concert Hall

Virtual concert: available Monday, July 4 | 7:30pm; Fear No Music YouTube channel

Performances are donation-based; RSVP and donate at fearnomusic.org/upcoming

Fear No Music's new donation-based ticketing model puts a mission of inclusion into action:
pay what you can, and no one is turned away.

Concert program

Nokuthula Ngwenyama: *Sonoran Storm* for solo viola, 8 min.

Derrick Skye: *American Mirror* for string quartet, 25 min.

Carlos Simon: *Move It!* for solo alto flute, 5 min.

Jesse Montgomery: *Strum* for string orchestra, 8 min.

C.J. Bey/Nicholas Emerson: *Level Up!* for Hip Hop artist, guitar and string ensemble, 4 min. **World Premiere*

Performers:

C. J. Bey, Hip Hop vocals
Amelia Lukas, flute
Keiko Araki and Inés Voglar Belgique, violins
Kenji Bunch, viola
Nancy Ives, cello
Nicholas Emerson, guitar
MYSfits String Ensemble, Metropolitan Youth Symphony

Committed to uplifting fallen humanity – with Love, Truth, Peace, Freedom and Justice – **Hip Hop artist C. J. Bey** “Encrypts Morals, Principles and Standards through Rhythm and Poetry.” Poignant and relevant to the human experience, C. J.’s music centers around the words “The truth will set you free,” and covers topics ranging from politics, education, and history, to love, family, and the human desire to be a better person for one’s self and others.

The Metropolitan Youth Symphony educates, develops and promotes young musicians, providing music education and performance opportunities for young musicians of all ages and levels of experience. Now in its 47th year, MYS enrolls over 500 youth from the Portland Metro and SW Washington areas in 13 ensembles.



playmys.org

Community Partner: Don’t Shoot Portland is a Black-led human rights nonprofit that advocates for community and accountability. Since 2014, the organization has implemented art, education and civic participation within its programming to create social change. dontshootpdx.org



ReTurn: Fear No Music at 30 is made possible with support from the Oregon Community Foundation, Oregon Arts Commission, Oregon Cultural Trust, Regional Arts and Culture Council, Anne Naito-Campbell, Ronni Lacroute, the Templeton Foundation, and Autzen Foundation.



Fear No Music promotes music education through the high-quality public performance of modern and contemporary classical music, and by offering groundbreaking youth mentorship in composition. Comprised of highly talented musicians, this flexible chamber music ensemble champions living composers and exposes audiences to new music being made both locally and globally through a uniquely relevant annual concert series. The group educates and trains the next generation of young composers in our community through its Young Composers Project. As a public advocate for global peace and equity, Fear No Music leverages its platforms for healing, activism, and social justice. Fear No Music is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization. fearnomusic.org.

For additional information, media materials and interview inquiries, please contact:

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