



**For Immediate Release:
The Metropolitan Youth Symphony
in Partnership with Fear No Music's Young Composers Project
Launches "The Authentic Voice" at November 11th Concert**



"By way of the unprecedented opportunity that MYS's 'Authentic Voice' program provides, Portland is becoming a leader in the development of the next generation of composers.

This series reminds us that music is a living, breathing art being created all the time by those that live and work among us. To hear the works of these incredible talents is to understand how audiences felt when they first heard pieces by the youthful Mozart and Mahler. The leadership and vision of MYS's Music Director Raúl Gómez and Executive Director Diana Scoggins cannot be praised enough."

- Jeff Payne, founder of the Young Composers Project

PORTLAND, OR (October 11, 2018) - The Metropolitan Youth Symphony fittingly kicks off its Downtown Series on Sunday, November 11th, 7:30pm at the Arlene Schnitzer Concert Hall with its Symphony Orchestra performing *Viva Italia!* This nod to the great Italian tradition features an ebullient program sure to build excitement for the Symphony's 2019 summer tour * to Italy. Praised for his impactful programming, Music Director Raúl Gómez has assembled an upbeat selection of music that not only captures the joy of youth, but also holistically depicts the Italian spirit while maintaining diversity of origination. The concert includes two iconic Italian works that have enchanted generations of young Americans, Rossini's Overture to *The Barber of Seville* and Ponchielli's *Dance of the Hours* from *La Gioconda*, alongside Italy-inspired compositions by musical giants Tchaikovsky and Berlioz. These colorful classics transport listeners to Venice, Rome, Seville, and beyond.

A highlight of the evening will be the inaugural performance for a new series of student commissions called "The Authentic Voice," presented and performed by MYS at the Arlene Schnitzer Concert Hall in partnership with [Fear No Music's Young Composers Project](#) and sponsored by Ronni Lacroute. The series begins on November 11th with the **WORLD PREMIERE** of *Tone Poem No. 1: Orpheus and Eurydice*, a brand new piece composed and conducted by high school senior Jake Safirstein.

Committed to "teaching young musicians to use their artistry to empower others and create joy in the world," (Raúl Gómez, Music Director) the Metropolitan Youth Symphony founded "The Authentic Voice" series to provide opportunity for three student composers to write orchestral works for their 2018-19 concert season. Performed within the context of riveting and thoughtfully designed concerts, these new works serve to more fully diversify programming by directly representing this young generation of artists which comprise the orchestra. Chosen for their talent and dedication, these three composers receive supportive training in a series of private lessons and small group workshops led by Fear No Music's master musicians in addition to orchestral readings with MYS's Symphony Orchestra.

In these sessions, teaching artists guide students in refining their work for the concert stage, while encouraging the exploration and honing of artistic authenticity.

Tone Poem No. 1: Orpheus and Eurydice is a marvelous work, according to Jeff Payne, the founder of the Young Composers Project. Scored for a large orchestra which includes harp and celeste, the piece lives up to its title with sweeping gestures and contrasting intimate moments which depict the ancient Orpheus and Eurydice legend in the manner of the great romantic tone poems. A skilled and passionate percussionist, composer and conductor, Jake Safirstein attended Grant High School for three years before transferring to the Interlochen Arts Academy boarding school in Michigan. He returns to Portland for the premiere of his brand new piece.

"I am, and always will be, eternally grateful for this incredible organization (MYS) and the profound impact that it has had on my life, and I'm incredibly excited to hear the other new music that will be featured on the next concerts for MYS!" - Jake Safirstein

Learn more about Jake in this entertaining interview with All Classical Portland's Christa Wessel:

[On Deck With Young Musicians - Jake Safirstein](#)

Tickets for Viva Italia: \$11 - \$40 at playmys.org or by call 503.239.4566

Arts for All tickets are available to Oregon Trailcard holders for only \$5 per ticket.

With a foundational commitment to access, the **Metropolitan Youth Symphony** educates, develops and promotes over 500 young musicians of all ages and levels of experience each year in one of the nation's largest youth orchestra programs. Learn more at playmys.org.

** The Symphony's 2019 summer tour to Italy and Austria takes place July 19 - August 5, and features a nine day residency at the Musica Riva Festival at Lago di Garda followed by a five day concert tour of Italy and Austria including performances at the Imola In Musica festival and the Carinthischer Sommer Festival Ossiach – Villach. This trip offers students once-in-a-lifetime opportunities for musical growth, educational exchange, and cultural immersion.*

Young composer
Jake Safirstein:



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