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All Classical Portland Announces New Radio Host and Producer Raúl Gómez-Rojas

PORTLAND, OR August 5, 2020 – All Classical Portland announced today that Raúl Gómez-Rojas, best known as the passionate, talented, and dedicated Music Director of the Metropolitan Youth Symphony, will join the station's on-air team as a contributing host of *On Deck with Young Musicians*.



Raúl Gómez-Rojas | Credit Sheepscott Creative

In 2018 Christa Wessel, the show's creator and beloved host, proposed having contributing hosts and producers for *On Deck*. The station has been searching ever since for the perfect candidates. Christa shared:

"Through On Deck All Classical Portland has celebrated hundreds of young musicians in our community. I'm extremely proud of this program, and I have been dreaming about how the show could evolve with the addition of new voices, producers, and perspectives. I'm excited to work with Raúl!"

At the start of the global health crisis in March 2020, Raúl Gómez-Rojas created an innovative program called *Virtual Hangouts*, to continue engaging with and educating the youth of the Metropolitan Youth Symphony. All Classical Portland immediately took note of Raúl's special ability to connect with guests, and with the young musicians often participating and virtually chatting throughout each program in Spanish and English.

All Classical Portland's Director of Music & Programming John Pitman said, "We are so thrilled to have Raúl Gómez-Rojas join All Classical Portland as one of our new contributing hosts for *On Deck with Young Musicians*. Raúl's excitement about music is infectious! His years of experience in conducting youth orchestras and education, as well as his fantastic online series, *Virtual Hangouts*, make him the perfect addition to our team. We are all eager to hear Raúl's interviews with young musicians beginning this fall, and to begin collaborating on content for All Classical Portland and the International Children's Arts Network (ICAN). Welcome Raúl!"

"All Classical Portland has been a permanent presence in my life since I moved to Oregon in 2016. Their excellent programming and the great people behind the music kept me coming back, daily, as a listener. I am honored to join this creative, dynamic and passionate team to continue expanding access to the music that we all love, and to celebrate the vibrant community of young musicians in the Pacific Northwest." - Raúl Gómez-Rojas

About On Deck with Young Musicians

Each Saturday at 5pm, All Classical Portland presents *On Deck with Young Musicians*, a locally-produced program featuring interviews with youth, and exploring musical opportunities for young people in the Pacific Northwest. Listen to previous episodes of *On Deck with Young Musicians*:

<https://m.soundcloud.com/all-classical-host-christa-wessel>

About Raúl Gómez-Rojas

Raúl Gómez-Rojas is passionate about building community and creating joy through his work as an orchestral conductor, violinist/violist, educator and public speaker. Lauded as a “visionary conductor” (Oregon ArtsWatch), Raúl inspires audiences and artists of all ages and backgrounds to use music as a vehicle for connecting with others. Recent highlights include performances with the Oregon Symphony, the Louisiana Philharmonic Orchestra, and with artists as diverse as Boyz II Men, Lyle Lovett, The Tenors, Kermit Ruffins, the 610 Stompers, Rick Springfield and more.

As Music Director of the Metropolitan Youth Symphony in Portland, Oregon, Mr. Gómez “creates concert programs that any forward-looking orchestra should envy” (Willamette Week), and leads a team of 12 conductors serving over 500 students in 14 ensembles.

Along with conductor Carlos Miguel Prieto, Raúl serves as the co-host of *SoundPost*, a podcast by the Orchestra of the Americas. The roster of guests on the podcast includes luminaries such as Yo-Yo Ma, Gabriela Montero, and Gil Shaham. Raúl also serves as the host of bi-weekly MYS Virtual Hangouts, live-streamed on the MYS YouTube channel. Guests interviewed include Pulitzer-prize winning composer Caroline Shaw, MacArthur “Genius” Award recipient Regina Carter, and leading artists such as Monica Huggett, Johannes Moser, Gabriela Lena Frank, Colin Currie and more.

Mr. Gómez was selected as one of six conductors to be featured in the League of American Orchestra's 2018 Bruno Walter National Conductor Preview. Conductors were selected for their "experience, talent, leadership, and commitment to a career in service to American orchestras." With MYS, Gómez conducted the US West Coast and European premieres of Florence Price's Symphony No. 1 in 2019. He also led the creation of “The Authentic Voice,” a collaboration with Fear No Music's Young Composers Project, through which MYS commissions, performs and records full orchestra works by promising young composers. Mr. Gómez has previously served in artistic and musical leadership positions with the Orchestra of the Americas, Mississippi Youth Symphony Orchestra, Premier Orchestral Institute, Louisiana Sinfonietta and Kids' Orchestra (Baton Rouge).

A native of Costa Rica, Gómez received full scholarships to complete graduate degrees (DMA, MM) at Louisiana State University, where he studied with Carlos Riazuelo (conducting), Kevork Mardirossian and Espen Lilleslåtten (violin/viola). Additional conducting training includes a fellowship at the Aspen Music Festival and numerous masterclasses with leading conductors

All Classical Portland is Portland, Oregon's classical radio station. Established in 1983, All Classical Portland's mission is to advance knowledge of and appreciation for classical music; to build and sustain culturally vibrant local and global communities around this art form; to reflect the spirit of the Pacific Northwest; and to foster integrity, quality, and innovation in all that we do. All Classical Portland streams worldwide at allclassical.org and broadcasts on KQAC 89.9 FM in Portland and Vancouver; KQOC 88.1 FM in Newport and Lincoln City; KQHR 88.1 FM in Hood River and The Dalles; KQHR 96.3 FM in the Gorge; KQMI 88.9 FM in Manzanita; 95.7 FM in Corvallis; and KSLC 90.3 FM in McMinnville.

For Media inquiries or to schedule an interview, contact:

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