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February MetroNotes

1 message

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MUSIC DIRECTOR • CONDUCTOR

MetroNotes: February 2022

MYSfits joins big names on stage

MYSfits, the self-named String Ensemble directed by acclaimed composer **Kenji Bunch**, find themselves performing next to some big names in music in this month.

[Feb. 15](#), the elite group performs at the Kridel Ballroom prior to **Kronos Quartet**, the San Francisco-based award-winning string quartet who are in town debuting their special event "A Thousand Thoughts." ([Tickets available here.](#))

[Feb. 27](#), OSO Creative Chair **Gabriel Kahane** joins MYSfits at the MYS Community Concert at Newmark Theatre. This collaboration with MYSfits is the first of its kind for award-winning composer Kahane, who will be performing two of his original works with the group. ([Tickets available here.](#))

MYSfits, who go beyond the classical tradition from fiddle to funk and everything in between, launched into this musically demanding month with an invitation to perform from Monday Musical Club of Portland, where they dazzled patrons at MMC's "teatime" Feb. 7.



21-22 Concerto Competition results

Students from various MYS ensembles competed in the 2021/2022 Concerto Competition Sunday, Jan. 30, in categories for strings, winds/brass/percussion, and piano.

Noah Carr, violinist, won first place for strings; **Abigail Kim**, oboist, won first place for winds/brass/percussion. String s runner-up is violinist **Charles Dalrymple**.

See all three in upcoming MYS concerts: Carr performs with Symphony Orchestra March 6, Kim performs with Symphony



Orchestra May 20, Dalrymple performs with Concert Orchestra on May 20.

Judges also awarded honorable mentions to **Annie Chang**, cello; **Benjamin Hosking**, flute; **Autumn Anderson**, flute.

Spring Concert brings partnership with Friends of Columbia Gorge

Symphony Orchestra musicians bring relevant issues to the Newmark Theatre stage with the world premiere of award-winning Portland composer Andrea Reinkemeyer's commissioned piece for orchestra, *Smoulder*. This evocative piece calls forth the devastation of forest fires, posing a call to action that Friends of the Columbia Gorge answered.

[Friends of the Columbia Gorge](#) joins forces with MYS to elevate youth voices concerned about the impact of climate change and threat of wildfires to the Gorge. They will be onsite at the concert Mar. 6, offering opportunities to learn and volunteer.

"Friends will be working with [MYS] to underscore how people of all ages have a role to play as active, everyday stewards of the Columbia Gorge to reduce the risks of wildfires and meet the challenges of climate change," says Friends Executive Director Kevin Gorman.

Friends and MYS are looking forward to a continued partnership beyond the concert, including taking student musicians out for an on-the-ground educational opportunity in the Gorge.

Downtown Series In Characters of Fire: *Music's Relevance*

March 6, 7:30 p.m., Newmark Theatre

Symphony No.1, Afro-American, by William Grant Still, is the first symphony by a Black composer to be performed by a major orchestra. This piece boldly combines the conventions of jazz and bluesy spirituals with classical form.

In recognition of Black History month, MYS has been presenting *Introduction to Black Classical Composers & Musicians*, taught by violinist and educator Chenoa Murphy.

Register for the last class 2/20 and get access to all of the previous lectures! This is made possible by a generous grant from the MJ Murdock Charitable Trust.

To register, contact programs@playmys.org

Join Portland's premier chamber music workshop this summer!

Portland Summer Ensembles' six-day intensive chamber music camp gives advanced and focused intermediate string and piano players access to world-class instruction in a supportive and challenging program.

Study with outstanding faculty from the Oregon Symphony and Grammy-nominated chamber ensemble, A Far Cry.

Smoulder, by **Andrea Reinkemeyer**, a reverent nod to ominous signs of climate change and written in response to the recent Eagle Creek fires, garnered numerous awards as a wind ensemble piece. It has been arranged for orchestra by the composer specifically for MYS.

The world premiere of ***Rhythms in Motion***, a work by composer **Rohan Srinivasan**, is a percussive piece exploring movement through music. Made possible by MYS' The Authentic Voice series, this is the world premiere of this piece by Srinivasan, who is a 2021 Sunset High School graduate and current Julliard student.

The evening will also include performances by Interlude Orchestra and Sinfonietta Orchestra, as well as Concerto Competition Strings Winner Noah Carr.

Tickets: \$11-\$43 online or call 503-239-4566.

Portland Summer Ensembles Chamber Music Camp is presented in partnership with MYS.

Chamber music camp: July 11-16 at the Madeleine Parish in Portland.

[Applications and audition videos accepted through Mar. 14.](#)



Save the Date for our 9th Annual Gala!

Our CRESCENDO Gala, *Standing Together*, is upon us and happening **Friday, April 22, at 5 p.m.** at Castaway Portland. This fun event features live and silent auctions, live music, appetizers and plated entrees, games, a wall of wine, Crescendo Honors, and a chance to celebrate standing together. Our emcee is our former MYS board member and Oregon Symphony principal timpanist Jonathan Greeney, who will be joined by Amy Faust as auctioneer.

But we need YOU! **Table sponsorships, auction items, and volunteer positions** are available NOW. Reach out to Sarah McLain: development@playmys.org or call 503.239.4566.



Don't miss out!

We are launching our first-ever full alumni program this summer, but we need YOU to be a part of it! Program perks, student outreach, mentorship opportunities ... so much awaits you. Keep your MYS connections alive.

We were here for you then, we're here for you now. [Reach out today.](#)



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