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**New York Youth Symphony presents The McCrindle Concert at
Carnegie Hall
Led by Music Director Michael Repper**



Featuring Cello Soloist Sterling Elliott

**Plus the World Premiere of NYYS First Music commission
The Sycamore and the Oak by Tanner Porter**

Sunday, March 1, 2020 at 2PM

**Carnegie Hall's Stern Auditorium/Perelman Stage | 57th Street & 7th Ave. | NYC
Tickets from \$20 at www.carnegiehall.org, CarnegieCharge 212.247.7800,
or the Carnegie Hall Box Office**

New York Youth Symphony: www.nyys.org

New York, NY - The **New York Youth Symphony (NYYS)** continues its 2019-2020 season with The McCrindle Concert, presented by the **NYYS Orchestra** on **Sunday, March 1, 2020 at 2pm**, at Carnegie Hall's Stern Auditorium / Perelman Stage, led by Music Director **Michael Repper**. The concert features 2019 Senior Division Sphinx Competition winner and cellist **Sterling Elliott** performing **Dvořák's** Cello Concerto in B Minor as well as the world premiere of First Music commission *The Sycamore and the Oak* by composer **Tanner Porter**, and **Respighi's** *Pines of Rome*.

Porter's piece is co-commissioned by the Interlochen Arts Academy, and was written in collaboration with students at the KIPP Academy Middle School in the Bronx. It is part of the NYYS's First Music commissioning program, which has been widely acknowledged for the past 37 years as one of the leading

forces in the United States for bringing the work of gifted young composers to public attention. The NYYS has commissioned over 160 original works for orchestra, chamber music, and jazz through First Music since 1984.

The Sycamore and the Oak is inspired by a story of two trees that have grown near each other for many years, a sycamore and an oak. Porter writes of the process of writing the work, "In a lesson on musical storytelling, I wrote three themes for string quartet (the material for this piece). Each segment represented some potential facet of the tree's growth and lives. The students were asked to order the segments in a way they felt told the story they liked best, and to express what extra-musical associations caused them to create this narrative. The three parts of this orchestral piece are ordered as the students preferred."

Music Director Michael Repper says, "In addition to performing beloved standard repertoire by Dvořák and Respighi, the New York Youth Symphony reaffirms its unparalleled commitment to new music at this concert, premiering a thrilling tone poem by Tanner Porter, who is lauded for her expansive, lyrical writing. This concert showcases an extremely wide range of orchestral color, and will be a treat for the audience. With exceptional talent and energy, the New York Youth Symphony is one of the most special ensembles in the country. I am proud to share the stage with such gifted young musicians."

Tanner Porter is a composer-performer, songwriter and visual artist from California. In her "original art songs that are by turns seductive and confessional" (Steve Smith, *The New Yorker*), Porter's passion for storytelling manifests in her setting of original poetry; her love for the cross-mingling of art forms often brings her to incorporate her own artwork into scores and performances. Her work has been performed on such programs as New Music Detroit's Strange Beautiful Music 9, by Miami-based chamber orchestra Nu Deco Ensemble with conductor Jacomo Bairos, at the 2018 New Music Gathering, and at Carnegie's Weill Recital Hall; recent orchestral works have been performed by the Albany Symphony with conductor David Alan Miller (commissioned for the 2019 American Music Festival and written in collaboration with librettist Vanessa Moody), by the Mannes American Composers ensemble with conductor Michael Repper, and by the Yale Philharmonia with conductor Julian Pellicano. Porter was one of 14 composers commissioned for the 2020 opera *Magdalene*, which premiered on the Prototype Festival at the HERE Arts Center, featuring Danielle Birrittella and Ariana Daub with direction by Zoe Aja Moore. Porter is a recent recipient of the American Academy of Arts and Letters Charles Ives Scholarship. She has attended the Djerassi Resident Artists Program, Gabriela Lena Frank Creative Academy of Music, Avaloch Farm Music Institute, and Norfolk Chamber Music Festival, and is attending the Aspen Music Festival this season. Her most recent album, *The Summer Sinks*, can be heard on all streaming platforms. Porter received a Bachelors in Music Composition from the University of Michigan's School of Music, Theatre and Dance, where she studied with Evan Chambers, Kristin Kuster, and Michael Daugherty. She received her Masters in Music Composition from the Yale School of Music, where she studied with Hannah Lash, Christopher Theofanidis, Aaron Jay Kernis and David Lang.

Cellist **Sterling Elliott** has soloed with the New York Philharmonic, the Cleveland Symphony Orchestra, Virginia Symphony Orchestra, the Hilton Head Symphony Orchestra, the South Bend Symphony Orchestra, the New World Symphony, the Buffalo Philharmonic Orchestra, the San Francisco Chamber Orchestra, and many more as well as a performance at the 2019 World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland. In 2015 and 2016, Elliott performed a 7-week national tour with the Sphinx Virtuosi, and in 2018 was a featured soloist on tour including a performance at Carnegie Hall. He began his cello studies at the age of three and made his solo debut at the age of seven when he became the first-place Junior Division winner of the PYO Concerto Competition. Other notable accomplishments include 1st place in

2019 National Sphinx Competition Senior Division, 2019 Camerata Artists International Competition, grand prize in the First Presbyterian Young Artist Competition, 1st place in the 2014 Sphinx Competition, 2014 Richmond Symphony Concerto Competition, and more. Sterling Elliott has enjoyed the honor of performing for cellist Yo-Yo Ma and also performing alongside recording artist Jennifer Hudson. He currently studies with Joel Krosnick at the Juilliard School working toward an undergraduate degree in cello performance where he is a proud recipient of a Kovner Fellowship.

Michael Repper is an emerging conductor of classical music, jazz, pops, and musical theater. A graduate of Stanford University, he recently completed his doctoral residency at the Peabody Conservatory of Music as a student of Gustav Meier and his longtime mentor, Marin Alsop. Repper was the Peabody Institute-Baltimore Symphony Orchestra Conducting Fellow for two seasons, and continues to work with the Peabody Institute ensembles. He holds leadership positions in several music organizations in the Baltimore area. He is currently Music Director of both the Northern Neck Orchestra and Baltimore Basilica, Assistant Conductor of the Concert Artists of Baltimore, and New Music Consultant for the Baltimore Symphony Orchestra. Michael Repper's international performances include a recent debut with the São Paulo Symphony Orchestra in Brazil, masterclasses with the Artes Nazionale Orchestra in Florence, Italy, and performances in Australia.

Up Next for the NYYS Orchestra:

The 2019-2020 NYYS Orchestra season concludes on **Sunday, May 24, 2020 at 2 pm**, with The Spring Concert, featuring pianist **Michelle Cann** making her Carnegie Hall debut in the first performance of **Florence Price's** Piano Concerto in One Movement at Carnegie Hall. The program also includes the world premiere of First Music commission *Obliviana* by **Patrick O' Malley** and **Mahler's** 1st Symphony, the "Titan." Michelle Cann is appearing as part of the Roy and Shirley Durst Debut Artist Series, now in its 35th year.

About the New York Youth Symphony:

The New York Youth Symphony educates and inspires young musicians through its **Orchestra, Jazz, Chamber Music, Composition, Musical Theater Composition, Conducting**, and **First Music** commissioning programs. This season includes seven world premieres of new works commissioned through the First Music program, composed for the Orchestra, Jazz, and Chamber Music ensembles.

Founded in 1963, the NYYS is internationally recognized for its award-winning and innovative educational programs for talented young musicians. As the premier independent music education organization for ensemble training in the New York metropolitan area, the NYYS has provided over 6,000 music students unparalleled opportunities to perform at world-class venues including Carnegie Hall, Jazz at Lincoln Center, National Sawdust, Joe's Pub, and TheTimesCenter, and to study with world-renowned artists. Beyond the instruction from accomplished musicians, students gain valuable life skills — commitment, discipline, focus, collaboration — and friendships that last a lifetime.

The NYYS is committed to partnering with traditionally underrepresented communities to create pathways for young people to find their way to music, and to a life in music. These community partnerships go beyond the stage to in-school residencies, free community concerts, and family involvement, and make music accessible to a wider and more diverse audience. The NYYS partners with organizations including the **Harmony Program, Harlem School for the Arts, SongSpace, Maestra, the Youth Orchestra of**

St. Luke's, Interlochen Arts Academy, BMI and ASCAP, plus offers fellowships to its current students and alumni/ae through the **Vargas-Vetter/Ukena, Van Lier, and Orpheus Arts Management** programs.

Executive Director **Shauna Quill** explains, "The New York Youth Symphony is proud of its 57-year history of providing outstanding music education to students through its six outstanding programs. We are committed to broadening access to the arts through our partnerships across the city as well as through fellowships which support students as they navigate the pathway towards college and perhaps a career in the arts. NYYS students and alumni become part of a community of musical citizens who engage with the arts for a lifetime."

NEW YORK YOUTH SYMPHONY 2019-2020 PERFORMANCE CALENDAR

Tickets & Information: www.nyys.org/events

ORCHESTRA

Michael Repper, Music Director

Season Opening Concert

Stern/Perelman at Carnegie Hall

Sunday, November 17, 2019 at 2 PM

Joan Tower: *Fanfare for the Uncommon Woman* No. 1 (Carnegie Hall premiere)

Beethoven: Piano Concerto No. 1 in C Major, op. 15 with **Harmony Zhu**, piano (Roy & Shirley Durst Debut Artist)

Marco-Adrián Ramos: *Rehén de tus labios, o Escena de telenovela* (First Music world premiere)

Rimsky-Korsakov: *Scheherazade*, op. 35

The McCrindle Concert

Stern/Perelman at Carnegie Hall

Sunday, March 1, 2020 at 2 PM

Dvořák: Concerto for Cello and Orchestra in B minor, op. 104 with **Sterling Elliott**, cello

Tanner Porter: *The Sycamore and the Oak* (First Music commission and world premiere)

Respighi: *Pines of Rome*

The Spring Concert

Stern/Perelman at Carnegie Hall

Sunday, May 24, 2020 at 2 PM

Patrick O' Malley: *Obliviana* (First Music commission and world premiere)

Florence Price: Piano Concerto in One Movement with **Michelle Cann**, piano (Carnegie Hall premiere, Roy & Shirley Durst Debut Artist)

Mahler: Symphony No. 1, "Titan"

JAZZ

Andy Clausen, Director

"Fun Ride": Swinging Through the Ages

Monday, December 3, 2019, at 7:30 & 9:30 PM at **Dizzy's Club, Jazz at Lincoln Center**

Matt Horanzy: *One Batch, Two Batch* (First Music commissioned world premiere)

Soloist: **Matt Wilson**, drums

Celebrating Charlie Parker @ 100

Monday, March 9, 2020, at 7:30 & 9:30 PM at **Dizzy's Club, Jazz at Lincoln Center**
Devin Reilly: *In the Shadow of Tall Giants* (First Music commission and world premiere)
Soloist: **Steve Wilson**, saxophone

Dreams of New Orleans

Monday, May 11, 2020 at 7:00 PM at **TheTimesCenter**
Greg Weis: *The Pen is Mightier* (First Music commission and world premiere)
Soloist: **Wycliffe Gordon**, trombone, trumpet, vocals

CHAMBER MUSIC

Dr. Lisa Tipton, Director

An Evening of Chamber Music

Monday, May 4, 2020 at 7:30 PM at **Scandinavia House**

An Evening Among Friends

Tuesday, May 5, 2020 at 7:30 PM at **Weill Recital Hall at Carnegie Hall**
Nina Shekhar: *tikka* (First Music commission and world premiere)

COMPOSITION

Dr. Kyle Blaha, Director

Composition Date 2020

Thursday, May 14, 2020, at 7:00 PM at **National Sawdust** in Brooklyn
Featuring original student compositions performed by members of all NYYS programs

MUSICAL THEATER COMPOSITION

Anna Jacobs, Director

Musical Theater Composition Songwriter Showcase 2020

Tuesday, May 19, 2020, at 7:00PM at **Joe's Pub**
Featuring original works, performed by NYYS students, and students from the Harlem School of the Arts