

YOUNG PEOPLE'S CHORUS OF NEW YORK CITY®

Artistic Director/Founder Francisco J. Núñez

Associate Artistic Director Elizabeth Núñez



Young People's Chorus of New York City
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Photo: Stephanie Berger



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Young People's Chorus of New York City (YPC), which culminated its 30th anniversary in 2018, is a multicultural youth chorus internationally renowned for its superb virtuosity and brilliant showmanship. Founded in 1988 by Artistic Director Francisco J. Núñez, a MacArthur Fellow, YPC has created an awareness of the ability of young people to rise to unforeseen heights of artistry.

Through the years YPC has continued to extend and invigorate the repertoire for young voices by commissioning well over 100 pieces of extraordinarily diverse music from many of today's most distinguished and emerging composers. This season alone, YPC has already premiered eight new pieces of music through its new *Vocal Currents* commissioning series, in which composers, including current YPC composer-in-residence Michael Gordon, collaborate with YPC choristers to reimagine and redefine the music of today.

YPC's international renown inspires invitations for collaborations and performances from a global array of festivals, cultural institutions, and cities on four continents. This past summer was particularly noteworthy. In addition to a 20-city, sold-out tour of Japan, YPC became the only North American chorus to be named "Choir of the World" in the 34-year history of the International Choral Kathaumixw competition British Columbia. Less than two weeks later, they returned to Lincoln Center's Mostly Mozart for the festival's new production of Bernstein's "Mass." This month YPC is honored to join Jaap van Zweden, the New York Philharmonic, and The Crossing in the world premiere performances of Julia Wolfe's "Fire in My Mouth."

In addition to its live performances, YPC is frequently seen on national television. Among its many national TV appearances this season, the chorus has performed on NBC's Today Show, CBS Sunday Morning, the Rockefeller Center Treelighting, Thanksgiving Day Parade, and the Live with Kelly and Ryan Christmas special. In 2015, the choristers' performance for Pope Francis at the 9/11 Memorial and Museum was streamed to more than a billion people worldwide.

Each year nearly 2,000 children benefit musically, academically, and socially through their participation in YPC's after-school and in-school programs. Among YPC's many awards are a Chorus America Education Outreach Award, two Chorus America/ASCAP Awards for Adventurous Programming, and a 2017 Margaret Hillis Award for Choral Excellence. In 2011 YPC received the National Arts and Humanities Youth Program Award, America's highest honor for youth programs.

January 2019

Francisco J. Núñez
Artistic Director/Founder

Francisco J. Núñez, a MacArthur Fellow and Musical America's [2018 Educator of the Year](#), is a composer, conductor, visionary, leading figure in music education, and the artistic director/founder of the Young People's Chorus of New York City, renowned worldwide for its diversity and artistic excellence. Since its founding in 1988, Mr. Núñez has heightened recognition among composers of the child's voice as a significant instrument for making music. Mr. Núñez also leads the University Glee Club of New York City, its fifth conductor since the all-men's chorus was established in 1894 and is sought after nationwide as a guest conductor by professional orchestras and choirs and as a master teacher. Through his Núñez Initiative for Social Change he is working to expand the YPC model to children's choruses beyond New York City and is a frequent keynote speaker as a leading authority on the role of music in achieving equality and diversity among children in today's society. Mr. Núñez composes countless compositions and arrangements in all musical formats and styles for choirs, orchestras, and solo instruments and has received an ASCAP Victor Herbert Award, the New York Choral Society's Choral Excellence Award, and the Visionary Award from Bang on a Can. [ABC-TV honored him](#) as its "Person of the Week," and Musical America Worldwide named him among 30 "Influencers" for his contributions to the music industry. NYU Steinhardt has presented him with its Distinguished Alumnus Achievement Award, and he holds honorary Doctor of Music degrees from both Ithaca College and Gettysburg College.

Elizabeth Núñez
Associate Artistic Director

Elizabeth Núñez is the Associate Artistic Director of the Young People's Chorus of New York City, renowned worldwide for its diversity and high level of artistic excellence. At YPC, she directs children ranging in age from 8 to 18, in rehearsals, performances, and tours in the US and abroad, as well as overseeing YPC's School Choruses program, which brings YPC's unique music curriculum into 18 New York City schools. Last season Elizabeth co-directed YPC in Meredith Monk's "Dancing Voices" as part of Lincoln Center's White Light Festival. This past summer she directed YPC in its return to the Mostly Mozart Festival for two performances of Bernstein's MASS, and, in addition, led YPC to two first-place wins at the International Choral Kathaumixw Competition in British Columbia, as well as the title of "Choir of the World." Beyond music, Elizabeth has created WIT: Women Inspiring Tomorrow, a mentoring program that connects YPC's high school girls to its alumnae and accomplished women across varying professions. Elizabeth is also the Founding Artistic Director of SoHarmoniums, an intergenerational women's community chorus, based in New York City's SoHo neighborhood. Elizabeth is sought after as a choral clinician for workshops and as a conductor throughout the country and is the recipient of the Lee University School of Music's Distinguished Alumnus Award for her commitment to "changing the lives of America's youth."

YPC Fast Facts

- Recipient of America's highest honor for youth programs—a National Arts & Humanities Youth Program Award—received by YPC at the White House, 2011
- YPC Artistic Director/Founder Francisco J. Núñez named a MacArthur Fellow, 2011
- Francisco J. Núñez named 2018 Educator of the Year by Musical America
- Nearly 2,000 children from 8 to 18 participate through YPC's after-school, in-school, and community programs
- Only chorus invited to represent the North American continent at World Choral Summit in Beijing, 2012
- First American youth chorus invited to Polyfollia international choral music showcase, Normandy, France, 2012
- First American youth chorus invited to Adolf Fredrick Festival in Stockholm Sweden, 2012
- Sponsored by Min-on Concert Association in three, month-long summer tours of Japan: in 2009, 2010, and 2018.
- Has invigorated and expanded the repertoire for children's choruses by premiering well over 100 pieces of music commissioned from a diverse array of the world's most distinguished and emerging composers.
- Named New York's first radio chorus by WNYC, New York Public Radio
- Through YPC's College Bound program, 100% of YPC graduates go on to higher education
- Only American chorus to win first prize in the 54-year history of the European Broadcasting Union's *Let the Peoples Sing* international choral competition – 2015
- Invited to sing for both Pope Benedict and Pope Francis on their first papal visits to the U.S.
- Francisco J. Núñez presented with honorary Doctor of Music degrees from Ithaca College, 2016, and Gettysburg College, 2018.
- First children's chorus to open Lincoln Center's Mostly Mozart Festival - 2017
- Through YPC National, YPC-inspired choruses are active in Texas and New Jersey. A new choral program is in its beginning stages in the Dominican Republic, with several more on the horizon.
- Only North American chorus to be named "Choir of the World" in the 34-year history of the International Choral Kathaumixw in British Columbia - 2018.

Fact Sheet

ARTISTIC DIRECTOR/ FOUNDER	Francisco J. Núñez MacArthur Fellow/Musical America's 2018 Educator of the Year
ASSOCIATE ARTISTIC DIRECTOR:	Elizabeth Núñez
MISSION:	The YPC mission is to provide children of any cultural and economic background with a unique program of music education and choral performance that seeks to fulfill every child's potential, while creating a model of artistic excellence and harmony that enriches the community.
FOUNDING:	YPC was founded by Artistic Director Francisco J. Núñez in 1988 and became an independent non-profit organization in 1997.
CHORUSES:	YPC reaches nearly 2,000 young people ages 8 to 18: over 425 children in its core after-school program; 1,300 children in YPC's School Choruses program in 18 NYC schools, and over 150 children in YPC's Washington Heights and Goddard Riverside after-school community programs.
PERFORMANCES:	YPC's commitment to artistic excellence and diversity inspires frequent invitations for collaborations and performances from a global array of festivals and cultural institutions on four continents.
REPERTOIRE:	YPC's repertoire ranges from the renaissance and classical traditions to jazz, pop, gospel, folk, world music and is particularly well known for commissioning and premiering over 100 works from a diverse array of today's most distinguished and emerging composers.
EDUCATION:	All YPC chorus members graduate from high school on time and go on to higher education with assistance from YPC's College Bound program.
AUDITIONS:	Auditions are held each year. No experience is necessary; just a love of singing and a commitment to an experience that will affect their lives.
TUITION:	Up to 85% of all choristers receive support.
RECORDINGS:	YPC regularly records the music it sings.
AWARDS AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS:	Among YPC's major awards are the 2011 National Arts & Humanities Youth Program Award; two Chorus America/ASCAP Awards for Adventurous Programming; Chorus America's Education Outreach and 2017 Margaret Hillis Award for Choral Excellence; 2018 "Choir of the World," over a dozen first-place wins in international choral competitions, including "Choir of the World" in 2018.

Critical Acclaim

"*The Singing Heart* [Mostly Mozart] started powerfully, with the endearing Young People's Chorus, standing in the aisles and at the front of the stage, singing a ravishing a cappella account of a solemnly beautiful Mozart Kyrie."

The New York Times

"...astounding virtuosity and palpable joy."

Wall Street Journal

"YPC sang [Four Heartfelt Anthems] with precision and artistry at the highest level. Every marking was observed. They sang so incredibly, it was inhuman...Francisco Núñez is the Horowitz of the choral world."
Composer David Del Tredici

"The Young People's Chorus of New York City, one of New York City's artistic treasures..."

Opera News

"The mantle that once belonged to the deans of 'golden era' choral music conductors has been passed, and it rests with Francisco Núñez."

Barbara Murray, Former Director of Music, NYC Department of Education

"...these young musicians, members of the elite Concert Choir and Chorale, have serious musical and vocal chops and sing with real commitment and intensity."

American Record Guide

Young People's Chorus of New York City Video Links

About YPC - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XPxJCCLi68M>

9/11 Museum and Memorial Dedication Ceremony: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=g-DvCUI6DCg>

Vere Languores Nosotros: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lpjK067WOkI>

Ride the Chariot: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yOqUdjwJg5g>

Bridge Over Troubled Water:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nuabtYuwC90&feature=youtu.be>

Beautiful Dreamer: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ou0vHQ2Ws_E&feature=youtu.be

Didn't My Lord Deliver Daniel:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kQ6fiLr6020&list=UUh4RWizmZQ4z45050C9XwIA>

Tres Cantos Nativos: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=45_2tVOHGLs

YPC sings for Pope Francis: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=icx7cDBuyNc>

Visit the YPC website: www.YPC.org