

# Young People's Chorus of New York City®

Francisco J. Núñez, Artistic Director/Founder

Elizabeth Núñez, Associate Artistic Director

The **Young People's Chorus of New York City (YPC)** is a multicultural youth chorus internationally renowned for its superb virtuosity and brilliant showmanship. Founded over 30 years ago 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. In addition to repertoire that spans from the Renaissance and classical traditions through gospel, folk, jazz, pop, contemporary, and world music, YPC continues to extend and invigorate the canon for young voices by commissioning well over 100 pieces of extraordinarily diverse music from many of the most distinguished composers of our time.

This past season alone, YPC commissioned and premiered eight new pieces of music through its *Vocal Currents* and *Vocal Resolutions* series from composers who collaborated with YPC chorus members to reimagine and redefine the music of today. Among them were YPC composer-in-residence Michael Gordon and Ellen Reid, the recipient of the 2019 Pulitzer Prize for Music.

Under Mr. Núñez and Associate Artistic Director Elizabeth Núñez, YPC's artistry inspires invitations for collaborations and performances from a wide array of festivals, cultural institutions, and cities around the world. YPC was recently invited to perform in Lincoln Center's 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Diamond Jubilee Gala and to join Jaap van Zweden, the New York Philharmonic, and The Crossing in the unanimously acclaimed, world premiere performances of Julia Wolfe's "Fire in My Mouth," a recording of which is being released in digital and physical formats by Decca Gold.

YPC is the first youth chorus ever to open Lincoln Center's venerable Mostly Mozart Festival, the only U.S. chorus to win first place in the history of the European Broadcasting Union's *Let the People's Sing* competition; and led by Elizabeth Núñez, the only North American chorus to win the title of "Choir of the World" in the history of Canada's Kathaumixw International Choral Competition.

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

Each year over 2,000 New York City children benefit musically, academically, and socially through their participation in YPC's after-school, in-school, and community programs. Today, YPC is reaching hundreds more children in YPC-inspired choruses through its YPC National programs across the country and in the Caribbean.

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.