

YOUNG PEOPLE'S CHORUS OF NEW YORK CITY®

Artistic Director/Founder Francisco J. Núñez

Associate Artistic Director Elizabeth Núñez



Francisco J. Núñez, Founder/Artistic Director

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Photo: Stephanie Berger

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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 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 was 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. This past season YPC was invited 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," the Decca Gold recording of which was just nominated for two Grammy Awards. 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. YPC's 2015 performance for Pope Francis at the 9/11 Memorial and Museum and its 2020 performances at the World Holocaust Forum at Yad Vashem in Jerusalem were each live-streamed to more than a billion people worldwide.

Each year 2,000 New York City children benefit musically, academically, and socially through their participation in YPC's after-school and in-school 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.

January 2020

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 created 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; the principal conductor of American Young Voices concerts of schoolchildren performing in the world's largest arenas; and is sought after nationwide as a guest conductor by professional orchestras and choirs and as a master teacher. In addition, through YPC National he is expanding 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 ASCAP Foundation's Life in Music 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, where she directs children ranging in age from 8 to 18 in rehearsals, performances, and tours throughout the U.S. and abroad. She also oversees YPC's flourishing School Choruses program, which brings YPC's unique music curriculum into 20 New York City schools. Elizabeth has conducted the YPC singers in the city's most prestigious venues from Carnegie Hall and the Apollo Theater to the Metropolitan Museum and Lincoln Center, as well as on national television, including appearances on "The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon" and "Good Morning America." She has led YPC in debuts in both Lincoln Center's Mostly Mozart and White Light Festivals, and most recently, prepared YPC choristers for the world premiere performances of Julia Wolfe's unanimously acclaimed multimedia work *Fire in My Mouth* with the New York Philharmonic, the Decca Gold recording of which was nominated for two Grammy Awards. 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. She 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 throughout the country as a choral clinician and conductor 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
- 2,000 children from 8 to 18 participate through YPC's after-school and in-school programs
- Only chorus invited to represent the North American continent at World Choral Summit in Beijing, 2012
- First American youth chorus invited to Polyfolia international choral music showcase, Normandy, France, 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 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 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 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 Georgia, New Jersey, Texas, Tennessee, and the Dominican Republic.
- Only North American chorus to be named "Choir of the World" in the history of the International Choral Kathaumixw in British Columbia - 2018.
- Invited by the New York Philharmonic to be featured artists with The Crossing in world premiere performances of Julia Wolfe's "Fire in My Mouth, the live Decca Gold recording of which was nominated for two Grammys" – 2019
- YPC singers represent America at international commemorations of 75th anniversary of liberation of Auschwitz-Birkenau at Yad Vashem in Jerusalem – 2020

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 2,000 young people ages 8 to 18 in its after-school program; School Choruses program in 20 NYC schools, and two after-school community programs in Washington Heights and at Goddard Riverside community center. Through YPC National, YPC reaches hundreds more children across the U.S. and in the Caribbean.
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 worldwide.
REPERTOIRE:	YPC's repertoire spans Renaissance and classical traditions to jazz, pop, gospel, folk, and world music. YPC is particularly well known for commissioning and premiering well over 100 works from a diverse array of today's most distinguished composers.
EDUCATION:	All YPC choristers 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 transform 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; over a dozen first-place wins in international choral competitions, and the title of "Choir of the World" in 2018. Steinway & Sons has designated YPC as a "Select Steinway School."

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=q-DvCUI6DCg>

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

Ride the Chariot: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yOqUdjwJg5q>

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=UUh4RWizmZQ4z45O50C9XwIA>

Tres Cantos Nativos:
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=45_2tVQHGLs

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

Visit the YPC website: www.YPC.org
Visit the YPC National website: www.ypcnational.org