YOUNG PEOPLE'S CHORUS
OF NEW YORK CITY
FRANCISCO J NÚÑEZ
FOUNDER / ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

New York
American Choral Directors Association

NY-ACDA Collegiate Conference 2026
Performing Choir

Young People's Chorus of New York City

Friday, October 23, 2026

8:15 p.m. | Cathedral of the Incarnation
46 Cathedral Avenue
Garden City, NY 11530

Francisco J. Núñez, *Artistic Director & Founder*
Elizabeth Núñez, *Creative Director and Conductor*
Taisiya Pushkar, *Principal Pianist*
Lindsay Bogaty, *Director of Production*
Leia Gibson, *Conducting Fellow*
Kyla Surajbali, *Conducting Fellow*

THE PROGRAM:

Suite for Dancing Voices I. Other Worlds Revealed II. Calling III. Quarry Weave IV. Panda Chant	Meredith Monk
Bogoroditze Devo, raduisya	Sergei Rachmaninoff arr. Nadezhda Averina
Panta Rhei	Jim Papoulis arr. Francisco J. Núñez
Frog Went A-Courting	*American Folk Song* arr. Elizabeth Núñez
City Called Heaven	*African American Spiritual* arr. Rollo Dilworth
Ain't No Grave Can Hold My Body Down	*Traditional Spiritual* arr. Paul Caldwell and Sean Ivory
La Sopa de Isabel	Francisco J. Núñez
Sound of Music Medley	Music by Richard Rodgers Lyrics by Oscar Hammerstein arr. Matt Podd

Please stay for a talkback after the show.

ABOUT YOUNG PEOPLE'S CHORUS OF NEW YORK CITY

Young People's Chorus of New York City is an internationally acclaimed choral ensemble, praised for its virtuosity and brilliant sound by The New York Times. Under the leadership of Founder and Artistic Director Francisco J. Núñez and Creative Director Elizabeth Núñez, the nonprofit organization uplifts over 2,000 young people annually, representing every neighborhood of New York City and empowering children of all backgrounds with a unique program of music education and choral performance that unlocks pathways to success through the arts.

With repertoire that spans Renaissance and classical traditions through gospel, folk, jazz, pop, contemporary and world music, YPC continually invigorates its catalogue of music for young voices by commissioning hundreds of works from many of the most distinguished and emerging composers of our time.

The organization's acclaimed artistry inspires invitations for collaborations and performances from a global array of festivals, cultural institutions, and cities throughout the world. Their exceptional performances have been heard in five continents, where they performed with leading orchestras at world famous venues like Tokyo's Bunkyo Civic Hall, Czech Republic's Smetana Hall, Beijing's Opera House, Barcelona's Palau de la Música, and New York City's Lincoln Center and Carnegie Hall.

The chorus regularly competes in international competitions and won 10 gold medals and four world championships during the World Choir Games in Korea 2023 and New Zealand 2024.

Among YPC's many awards are America's highest honor for youth programs, a National Arts and Humanities Youth Program Award from the White House, an honor from First Lady Laura Bush, and performances before prime ministers, Pope Francis and Pope John Paul. **www.ypc.org.**

ABOUT ELIZABETH NÚÑEZ

Elizabeth Núñez is a conductor, clinician, speaker, soloist, and Creative Director of YPC. She has conducted YPC choristers in performances at prestigious venues worldwide, including debuts in both Lincoln Center's Mostly Mozart and its White Light Festivals, and in international choral competitions, where she led YPC to first place wins at the Cantonigròs International Music Festival in Spain, the "Choir of the World" title at Choral Kathaumixw Festival in British Columbia, and gold medals wins at the 2023 and 2024 World Choir Games in Korea and New Zealand.

Elizabeth has also prepared YPC choristers for television appearances on the Today Show, The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon, and Good Morning, America.

In her role as director of the YPC School Choruses program, Elizabeth has grown the program to benefit thousands of public school children across New York City.

Elizabeth is also the Founding Artistic Director of SoHarmoniums Women's Choir and created WIT: Women Inspiring Tomorrow.

She holds a Master of Music Education from the University of Oklahoma and a Bachelor of Music Education from Lee University, where she was awarded the 2017 School of Music's Distinguished Alumnus Award. She is a member of the Chorus America Board of Directors.

ABOUT TAISIYA PUSHKAR

Taisiya Pushkar enjoys a vibrant career as a pianist, with extensive performances in Italy, the Netherlands, Belgium, Israel, Canada, and the United States as a soloist and in collaboration with many leading singers and instrumentalists.

In 2019, Taisiya became the first full-time pianist for the award-winning Young People's Chorus of New York City, joining them in rehearsals and performances in New York City and on tour, as well as managing pianists and instrumentalists for their numerous performances.

Dr. Pushkar has been on the faculty of the Ethical Culture Fieldston School, the Lucy Moses School at Kaufman Center, and a teaching artist for the Distance Learning Center at the Manhattan School of Music. Taisiya holds a BM from Oberlin College, and an MM and DMA from the Manhattan School of Music.

ABOUT FRANCISCO J. NÚÑEZ

Francisco J. Núñez, a MacArthur Fellow and Musical America's 2018 Educator of the Year, is a composer, conductor, director, visionary, leading figure in music education, and the Artistic Director/Founder of YPC.

He has greatly extended and invigorated the repertoire for young voices by commissioning hundreds of pieces of music from many of today's most distinguished, established and emerging composers. As a composer himself, he composes countless compositions and arrangements.

Francisco received a 2023 Emmy® Award for Artistic Direction of the feature-length holiday special Topsy Turvy New York, a 2022 Emmy® Award for Holiday Jingles, and his latest film, This Time Round, has earned several awards including "Best Producer" at the Toronto Indie Filmmakers Festival and "Best Soundtrack" at the New York International Film Awards.

Among his many awards and honors are an ASCAP Victor Herbert Award and the New York Choral Society's Choral Excellence Award. Bang on a Can presented him with its Visionary Award for making the commissioning of new music a key part of the YPC mission; NYU Steinhardt honored him with its Distinguished Alumnus Achievement Award; and both Ithaca College and Gettysburg College have presented him with honorary Doctor of Music degrees.

CHORISTERS

Sofia Abreu
Carla Almanzar
Catalayah Alonzo-Torrado
Louisa Barber
Rachel Benjamin
Juno Chen
Irene Cunto
Elinor Dennis
Ava Dibadj
Ashlee Evans
Tessa Fraass
Elara Friedman
Nora Fuchs
Gabrielle Fuentes
Laila Gilbert
Vidya Hariani
Alexandra Jiang
Kaya Jimenez
Ari Jimenez-Silverstein
Annabelle Lee-Morrow
Hugo Martinez-Nieto
Alba Martinez-Nieto
Callie Millar
Hanna Minevich
Olivia Morakis
Adalyn Mulcahy
Zoe Napper
Amaliah Nolasco
Sabrina Núñez
Ella Ouattara
Vivienne Parmenter
Erilenny Perez
Isabella Pinilla
Emma Ramsey
Angelina Regalado
Raven Richard
Dean Riley-Driver
Kylie Rosario
Riley Soden
Lianne Stewart
Nina Suskin
Oliver Tanner
Patricia Thomas
Bruno Toomajian
Zahra Toure
Alex Vining
Harper Vining
Maya Wald
Mia Weddepohl
Josephine Zow

YOUNG PEOPLE'S CHORUS
OF NEW YORK CITY
IN THE KEY OF *love*