



For Immediate Release | 10-20-15

Send Media and Material Requests to:
Pierre Derycz, Orchestra Manager
(213) 617-7707, pierre@ymf.org

**YMF DEBUT ORCHESTRA PERFORMS AT
THE FOSHAY LEARNING CENTER AND VAN NUYS HIGH SCHOOL**

November 2015

(Los Angeles, CA) - The Young Musicians Foundation (YMF) Debut Orchestra will perform an outreach concert at The Foshay Learning Center and Van Nuys High School. A special feature of YMF's Music 360° program, the interactive performances will be led by Music Director and Conductor Yuga Cohler, who will conduct the orchestra in selections from a concert it will perform at LACMA *Sundays Live* on November 15th, 2015. The program, to last under an hour, will feature an introduction to the orchestra, as well as a discussion of the works performed and their composers, in an effort to promote music appreciation and education for students in the Los Angeles Unified School District.

"Since 2009, YMF has been fortunate to partner with the Department of Cultural Affairs Los Angeles on bringing the concert hall directly to schools in LAUSD through our Music 360° program," says YMF Executive Director Julia Gaskill. "This interactive program is a win-win for students and our young musicians, and we thoroughly enjoy our partnership with the city and its schools."

The orchestra previously performed at Van Nuys High School in 2014, in a program attended by over five hundred students. Music 360° is funded by a grant from the Department of Cultural Affairs Los Angeles.

PROGRAM:

Young Musicians Foundation Debut Orchestra
Yuga Cohler, *conductor and presenter*

Selections from LACMA *Sundays Live* concert (Sunday, November 15th, 2015)

Date and Time TBD
The James A. Foshay Learning Center
3751 South Harvard Blvd.
Los Angeles, CA 90018

Tuesday, November 17th, 2015 at 10:15 AM
Van Nuys High School
6535 Cedros Ave.
Van Nuys, CA 91411

www.YMF.org
(213) 617-7707

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Yuga Cohler, Music Director and Conductor

As the youngest graduate of the Juilliard School's course in orchestral conducting, 26-year-old Yuga Cohler is revolutionizing classical music through his incorporation of technology, popular culture, and other creative media into the concert going experience. He was recently appointed music director and conductor of the Young Musicians Foundation (YMF) Debut Orchestra, one of the foremost professional training orchestras in the country. For his first season with YMF, Cohler has instituted *The Great Music Series*, a concert series which explores the elements common to massively popular music and works from the classical canon. The 2015/16 season sees the inaugural installation of this series: *Yeethoven*, a comparison of the works of Kanye West and Beethoven, conceived in collaboration with composer Stephen Feigenbaum.

A recipient of the Bruno Walter Memorial Scholarship, Cohler studied with New York Philharmonic Music Director Alan Gilbert at the Juilliard School. There, he worked extensively with the Juilliard Orchestra and served as its assistant conductor under Itzhak Perlman. He continues to enjoy a close relationship with the group, having made his professional debut with them in 2013. Other orchestras which Cohler has conducted include the Dallas, Baltimore, Fort Worth, and New Amsterdam Symphony Orchestras, and the New World and Danish National Symphonies.

Among the accolades granted to Cohler are the Career Assistance Award from the Solti Foundation U.S., the Ansbacher Fellowship from the American Austrian Foundation, the Charles Schiff Conducting Award from the Juilliard School, and the David McCord Prize for Artistic Excellence from Harvard University. He has been granted fellowships to some of the most prestigious musical institutions in the country, including the Aspen Music Festival and the Cabrillo Festival of Contemporary Music, and has additionally studied at the Tanglewood Music Center.

A skilled interpreter of modern music, Cohler was selected by composer John Adams to perform a program of modern American orchestral music at Carnegie Hall, where the New York Times lauded his "strong rendition" of Elliott Carter's Double Concerto. He currently serves as a Director of the Asia / America New Music Initiative, with whom he was a featured performer at the 2015 Beijing Modern Music Festival.

Cohler is a *summa cum laude* graduate of Harvard College, where he studied computer science. He first became a music director at the age of 20 when he assumed the helm of the Harvard Bach Society Orchestra. As an advocate for the integration of art music into mainstream American culture, Cohler has collaborated as both performer and lecturer with such forward-thinking institutions as Google, Groupmuse, and the Danbury Music Centre. He is the founder of the blog State of Art (yugacohler.com/stateofart), which examines American musical culture without preconceptions of genre or quality

Young Musicians Foundation (YMF)

Young Musicians Foundation exists to unify communities through exceptional classical music experiences. We provide opportunities for youth of all socio-economic and ethnic backgrounds to cultivate their abilities and passion for music during the pivotal formative years of their development. By expanding access to quality musical education and performances, we nurture creativity and emotional expression, enriching quality of life and fostering current and future audiences. Our eight interconnected music programs provide an introduction to musical instruments and technique, in addition to scholarships and performance opportunities for advanced students embarking on professional careers.

Debut Orchestra

Now celebrating its 61st season, the Debut Orchestra is one of the oldest pre-professional training orchestras in the country. Comprised of approximately 70 talented musicians ages 15-25 from across the Los Angeles area, the orchestra hones the skills of students who are on the cusp of professional careers. Musicians are selected each year through blind auditions adjudicated by eminent Los Angeles-based musicians, and alumni of the orchestra perform today in virtually every major symphony orchestra in the country. Currently led by Music Director and Conductor Yuga Cohler, the orchestra also remains one of few programs giving talented young conductors the opportunity to plan, rehearse, and conduct a full orchestra season.

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FOR MORE INFORMATION:

(213) 617-7707

www.YMF.org

Email: Pierre Derycz, Orchestra Manager, pierre@ymf.org

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