

Raúl Gómez

conductor



"Through the complex rhythmic passages he was not only extremely clear but led the ensemble with a sure musical understanding. His rehearsal technique was economical and organized. It was a real joy working with him."

(James Alexander, Director of Strings Program, Nicholls State University)

"Mississippi was indeed most fortunate to have the conducting brilliance of Raúl Gómez. Upon his arrival on the first day of the Premier Orchestral Institute, the student musicians were very responsive to his enthusiastic and patient style. He was able to motivate them to excel to their absolute best and the level of mastery of the music he was able to garner from them after just one week was incredible."

(Yoluanda Brown, Parent and Volunteer, Mississippi Youth Symphony Orchestra)

bio

(November, 2013)



Raúl Gómez is a **rising young conductor** increasingly recognized for his **highly polished and expressive performances**. In high demand as a conductor and violinist, Raúl is known for his ability to **connect and interact with audiences of all kinds**. A versatile musical talent, he is active and comfortable in a variety of musical genres and styles, including classical music, jazz and free improvisation.

In the 2013-2014 season, Raúl served as guest conductor for the **Louisiana Philharmonic Orchestra's** sold-out gala celebrating the grand re-opening of the **Saenger Theatre**, a newly restored New Orleans landmark. Later, Raúl returned to **conduct and host LPO's free park concerts**.

Other season highlights include appearances with the **Orquesta de la Universidad Autónoma de Aguascalientes** in México and a special presentation as a featured speaker in Costa Rica's **TEDx PuraVida**. This year also marks Raúl's appointment as a Conducting Fellow with the **Allentown Symphony Orchestra** in Pennsylvania, where he will be collaborating with Music Director **Diane Wittry** and the **Allentown Symphony Chorus**.

In 2012-2013 Raúl was appointed Principal Guest Conductor of **Sinfonietta Belo Horizonte** in Brazil and served as Assistant Conductor of **Louisiana Sinfonietta** in Baton Rouge, LA. He has recently appeared as guest conductor with Nicholls State University Orchestra, LSU Symphony Orchestra, the Youth Orchestra of Panama, the Contemporary String Ensemble in New Orleans and the Premier Orchestral Institute in Madison, Mississippi. An avid supporter of new music, Raúl has recently conducted **three world premieres**: **Liduíno Pitombeira's** Concerto for Piano 4 Hands, **Ronaldo Cadeu's** ballet Crime and Punishment, and New Orleans jazz legend **Wardell Quezergue's** posthumous premiere of his "Passion, Death and Resurrection of Jesus Christ," which was recorded for **broadcast by WWOZ, New Orleans**.

As a 2011 **Conducting Fellow at Aspen Music Festival**, Raúl worked with Robert Spano, Hugh Wolff, Larry Rachleff and Murry Sidlin. Additionally, he has participated in master classes with David Efron, Carl Topilow, Theodore Kuchar, Diane Wittry, Mark Scatterday, Donald Hunsberger and Michael Votta.

Starting in June 2011, Raúl served as the founding **Artistic Director of Kids' Orchestra**, a year round program designed to foster social change and nurture promising futures for youth in Baton Rouge. After a successful first year during which Raúl led a team of teachers that changed the lives of close to 100 students, he continues his involvement with the organization as Artistic Advisor. His work with Kids' Orchestra made him the recipient of **the Hildegard Behrens Foundation Young Artist Humanitarian Award** in 2012.

Raúl completed graduate degrees at **Louisiana State University (DMA** in orchestral conducting and **MM** in violin performance), where he studied with Carlos Riazuelo, Kevork Mardirossian and Espen Lilleslatten. As a graduate student at LSU, he was a Sidney M. Blitzer violinist and a Huel D. Perkins Doctoral Fellow. Previously, in Costa Rica, he studied violin and viola with José Aurelio Castillo.

résumé

(August, 2013)

Raul Gomez
Conductor

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Recent Conducting Engagements (2013)

Louisiana Philharmonic Orchestra (New Orleans, LA)

Fall Park Concerts:

“Sunset Symphony on The Lake” and “LPO Rodeo”

Orquesta de la Universidad Autónoma de Aguascalientes

Aguascalientes, México - Guest Conductor and YOA Orchestra
of the Americas Global Leaders Program Mentor

Louisiana Philharmonic Orchestra

“Band Together” - A free community concert celebrating the
reopening of the Saenger Theatre in New Orleans

Sinfonietta Belo Horizonte (Belo Horizonte, Brazil)

Guest Conductor for Subscription Concert

Louisiana Sinfonietta (Baton Rouge, LA)

“*Music for the Young at Heart*” (Subscription Concert)

Premier Orchestral Institute (Madison, MS)

Conductor of “Symphonic Strings” in Mississippi Symphony
Orchestra’s intensive educational summer program

Prytania Chamber Orchestra and Symphony Choir of New Orleans

Posthumous Premiere of Wardell Quezergue’s *Passion of Christ*
Hosted by the Jazz Foundation of America (New York, NY)

Conducting Positions

Allentown Symphony Orchestra (Allentown, Pennsylvania)

2013-2014

Conducting Fellow

<http://www.allentownsymphony.org/>

Sinfonietta Belo Horizonte (Minas Gerais, Brazil)

2011-present

Principal Guest Conductor

Louisiana Sinfonietta (Baton Rouge, Louisiana)

2012-2013

Assistant Conductor

www.louisianasinfonietta.org

Kids’ Orchestra (Baton Rouge, LA)

2011-2012

Artistic Director

Education

Doctor of Musical Arts - Orchestral Conducting <i>Huel D. Perkins Doctoral Fellow</i> Louisiana State University (LSU) Orchestral Conducting; Minors: Jazz Performance, Violin Performance Instructors: Carlos Riazuelo (conducting), Espen Lilleslatten (violin/viola)	Baton Rouge 2012
Master of Music - Violin Performance Louisiana State University (LSU) Major Instructor: Kevork Mardirossian	Baton Rouge 2008
Bachelor of Music – Violin Performance Instituto Nacional de Musica (INM) Major Instructor: Jose A. Castillo	San Jose, Costa Rica 2005

Festivals and Workshops

F. Fennell Memorial Conducting Masterclass, Eastman School of Music Participant Faculty: Donald Hunsberger, Michael Votta, Mark Scatterday	Rochester, NY 2013
Conducting Gestures Workshop Participant Faculty: Diane Wittry	Allentown, PA 2013
Conductors Guild Training Workshop at 2012 Annual Conference Participant Faculty: David Efron, Allan Dennis, Gordon Johnson, Patrick Pearson	Chicago 2012
Conductors Guild Training Workshop, Cleveland Institute of Music Participant Faculty: Carl Topilow, Theodore Kuchar, Sasha Mäkilä, Joel Smirnoff	Cleveland 2012
Aspen Music Festival and School – American Academy of Conducting Conducting Fellow Faculty: Robert Spano, Larry Rachleff, Hugh Wolff, Murry Sidlin	Aspen 2011

Awards, Honors

- **Thelma A. Robinson Award 2013 and 2015 Nominee** - Conductors Guild, Feb 2013
- **Hildegard Behrens Foundation Young Artist Humanitarian Award** in 2012.
- **Huel D. Perkins Doctoral Fellowship at LSU** – 2009-2011 (Full tuition plus \$20,000/yr)
- **Winner of LSU Concerto Competition** (Violin, Sibelius Violin Concerto) - 2009
- Awarded title **Sidney M. Blitzler Violinist** (LSU) – 2009
- Inducted into **Phi Kappa Lamda** (National Music Honor Society) - 2008
- Featured soloist with Costa Rica National Youth Symphony (Tchaikovsky Violin Concerto) - 2005
- Fellowship from **Youth Orchestra of the Americas** – 2002-2006
- **Winner**, Young Soloists Competition – Violin (C.R. National Sym., Lalo *Symphonie Espagnole*) – 2002

press

LSU | College of Music & Dramatic Arts

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REIMAGINE

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE LSU COLLEGE OF MUSIC & DRAMATIC ARTS



MUSIC GRADUATE RAUL GOMEZ

reflects the global reach of the CMDA, composing music for theatrical productions, performing with the LSU Symphony Orchestra, conducting and teaching a Baton Rouge children's orchestra and another in Panama. Read about him and recent developments at the college in this issue of *Reimagine*.

PLUS

LSU Theatre Expands
Choices for Undergrads

CMDA Graduates Take
Off in the Arts

Upcoming Season of
Operas, Plays, and Concerts

Sprinkling of raindrops can't dampen spirits at Sunset Symphony on the Lake

By Elizabeth Moore, NOLA.com | The Times-Picayune

Full post online at:

http://www.nola.com/community/st-tammany/index.ssf/2013/10/sprinkling_of_raindrops_cant_d.html

Published October 28, 2013



LOUISIANA
PHILHARMONIC
ORCHESTRA

Raindrops dampened nary a spirit at the **Sunset Symphony on the Lake** on Oct. 27. Umbrellas were popped open, and wine corks popped up as picnickers toasted the beautiful music that wafted on the watery breezes.

The evening began with selections by the Greater New Orleans Youth Orchestra under the direction of Dr. Jean Montès, who lauded the dauntless crowd for braving the weather. Then **the Louisiana Philharmonic Orchestra conducted by Raul Gomez, took to the stage and delighted the audience with light classics and movie music such as the “1812 Overture” and “Star Wars Suite.”**

At the end of the melodic evening, the skies cleared and music lovers enjoyed a spectacular sunset, as advertised.

Sunset Symphony Oct. 27 on the Mandeville Lakefront

By Margaret Schonberg, NOLA.com | The Times-Picayune

Full post online at:

http://www.nola.com/community/st-tammany/index.ssf/2013/10/sunset_symphony_oct_27_on_the.html?utm_source=rss&utm_medium=rss&utm_campaign=sunset-symphony-oct-27-on-the-mandeville-lakefront

Published October 14, 2013

The beauty of sight and sound will be joined on Oct. 27, as the City of Mandeville and area businesses present a **“Sunset Symphony on the Lakefront.”** The concert, which is free and open to the public, will be held on the Mandeville lakefront at the end of Coffee St. The Greater New Orleans Youth Orchestra will play at 4 p.m., followed by a performance by the Louisiana Philharmonic Orchestra at 5 p.m.

“Sunset Symphony is a much anticipated event on the lakefront,” said Alia Casborne', cultural development director. **“This is the fourth year and the crowd grows each year.** We welcome everyone to bring a picnic and take in the natural beauty of the lakefront. What more can anyone ask for than the opportunity to experience a Mandeville sunset while being serenaded by the LPO and GNOYO?”

The symphony, with guest conductor **Raul Gomez**, will perform popular classical pieces, as well as music from movies and Broadway, such as the “William Tell Overture” by Gioachino Rossini, “Star Wars Suite” by John Williams, “Hoe-Down” from “Rodeo” by Aaron Copland, “1812 Overture” by Piotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky and more.

Free LPO show at Saenger Theatre celebrates history of the restored New Orleans landmark

By Chris Waddington, NOLA.com | The Times-Picayune

Full post online at:

http://www.nola.com/arts/index.ssf/2013/08/free_lpo_show_at_saenger_theat.html

Published August 19, 2013

The **Saenger Theatre** has teamed with the **Louisiana Philharmonic Orchestra** to present a free show at the restored New Orleans landmark. On Oct. 2, the **acclaimed** classical ensemble will perform music from the Saenger's history as a film and theater venue.

The program has not been finalized, but selections will span the life of the hall, from 1927 to the present. Guest conductor **Raúl Gómez** will lead the LPO.

Most tickets will be distributed to area schools, but the public also is welcome at the Wednesday morning program.



Louisiana Sinfonietta will perform classic music 'for the young at heart'

By Diana Samuels, NOLA.com | The Times-Picayune

Full post online at:

http://www.nola.com/entertainment/baton-rouge/index.ssf/2013/01/louisiana_sinfonietta_will_per.html

Published January 23, 2013

Like classical music and feel young at heart? Check out the Louisiana Sinfonietta Concert this Sunday at Louisiana State University, aptly titled "Music for the Young at Heart." (...)

The program is conducted by Raul Gomez, who was recently appointed Assistant Conductor of Sinfonietta Belo Horizonte in Brazil and was a graduate student at LSU.

The concert begins at 2 p.m. Sunday at the LSU School of Music Recital Hall. General admission tickets are \$15 at the door.



LSU School of Music Doctoral Student Travels to Panama to Conduct Youth Orchestra Concert, Teach Master Class

LSU Media

Full post online at:

<http://www.cmda.lsu.edu/Media/newspage.asp?i=143&PageNo=1>

Published March 15, 2012

Raul Gomez, a doctoral student in the LSU School of Music, will serve as **guest conductor for a concert of the National Youth Orchestra of Panama on Saturday, March 17**. During his trip, Gomez will also conduct **master classes at the University of Panama**.

Gomez, who also leads the Kids Orchestra in Baton Rouge, said he is honored to conduct the orchestra as well as educate.

"At my first rehearsal with the ensemble on Wednesday, I was highly impressed with the amount of talent and energy that these young musicians have," Gomez said of the orchestra.

Gomez said that the Fundacion Sinfonia Concertante de Panama, or FUNSINCOPA, learned about his work with Kids' Orchestra in Baton Rouge through Isaac Casal, also an LSU School of Music doctoral student and the founder of FUNSINCOPA, who is now an instructor with Kids' Orchestra.

"This generated the invitation for me to work with the students in Panama in an **intensive few days of rehearsals leading up to our concert on Saturday night**," he said. "Additionally, faculty members at the University of Panama and instructors working with kids from FUNSINCOPA are taking my conducting master classes, in which I'm sharing knowledge that I've acquired as a student at LSU and the Aspen Music Festival."

Laurence Kaptain, dean of the LSU College of Music & Dramatic Arts, said that this honor shows how Gomez is **already establishing himself as a professional**, even before graduating with a doctoral degree in music.

"His conducting engagement with the National Youth Philharmonic in Panama brings international attention not only to him and to LSU, but it allows us an opportunity to attract and recruit students from this fine ensemble," Kaptain said. "The LSU College of Music & Dramatic Arts has alumni and donors in Panama City and, as dean, it will be a privilege to support Raul, meet prospective parents and students, and interact with LSU alumni and supporters and parents of current LSU students in other disciplines."

"For many years the reach of the LSU College of Music & Dramatic Arts has attracted large numbers of talented students from Mexico, Central America and South America, including Gomez," Kaptain said.



LSU student named Kids' Orchestra artistic director

By Michelle McCalope for WAFB 9News, Baton Rouge

EXCERPTS

Full article available online at:

<http://ebsouth.wafb.com/news/arts-culture/l-su-student-named-kids-orchestra-artistic-director/49443>

Published June 15, 2011

Kids' Orchestra of Baton Rouge recently announced the appointments of LSU School of Music doctoral student Raul Gomez as artistic director and Eliza Eaton as project director.

A native of Costa Rica, Gomez is a conductor, violinist, composer and teacher working to complete his Doctor of Musical Arts degree in conducting at LSU. He is a Sidney M. Blitzer violinist and a Huel D. Perkins Fellow in the university's Doctor of Musical Arts program.



As artistic director, Gomez said he is looking forward to **working with the very talented team of Kids' Orchestra teachers, student and their families to start a movement that will make a huge difference in the community.**

"I am a strong believer in the power of the arts to help improve our society and culture and that's what Kids' Orchestra is all about," Gomez said. "Growing up in Costa Rica, I had the privilege of studying music in a similar program and it definitely changed my life."

Laurence Kaptain, dean of the LSU College of Music & Dramatic Arts, said he felt Gomez's appointment speaks to the serious intent of Kids Orchestra of Baton Rouge to assure quality in instruction and excellence in the structure of this ambitious project.

"He [Gomez] is a proven artist, talented composer, inspirational teacher and creative leader who will provide important direction, while serving as a role model for the students and teachers associated with the program," Kaptain said. (...)

More articles at <http://rgomezmusic.com/RGomezMusic/Press.html>

references

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videos

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