VENEZUELAN-Spanish composer Giancarlo Castro D'Addona to Debut “Portland Beauty” in 2022

An Orchestral Score Commissioned by University Studies’ Dr. Óscar Fernández and Funded by Bringing Theory to Practice

[PORTLAND, OREGON, January 10, 2020] Venezuelan-Spanish composer and conductor Giancarlo Castro D'Addona is slated to debut “Portland Beauty” in 2022. Dr. Óscar Fernández commissioned the orchestral piece as part of University Studies’ Race and Social Justice Dialogues focusing on immigration, art, and activism. A 2017 external grant from Bringing Theory to Practice, a national project seeking to transform higher education, funds this commission.

Before COVID-19, the premier was scheduled for spring 2021 and would feature BRAVO Youth Orchestras, a music advocacy non-profit serving North Portland, Oregon, and Portland State University student instrumentalists. Due to COVID-19-related restrictions, Castro and Fernández hope to reschedule the premiere in 2022—or organize a virtual premiere in the next two years (2021, 2022).

“Portland Beauty” is inspired by the composer’s first hike to Mirror Lake, a trek marked by sunshine, rain, and snow. This piece is part of a larger orchestral composition describing the composer’s experiences after moving from Miami to Portland and experiencing Oregon’s flora and fauna. For a MIDI version of a selected passage of “Portland Beauty,” click here.

Dr. Óscar Fernández is a senior instructor in University Studies, a general studies program at Portland State University. He is a 2019-2020 recipient of the Portland State University’s Distinguished Faculty Award, and fall 2020 research fellow from the University of California-Irvine’s Humanities Research Institute.

Composer-conductor Giancarlo Castro D’Addona is principal conductor of the Reed College Orchestra and conductor of the Metropolitan Youth Orchestra, the Portland Youth Wind Ensemble, and BRAVO Youth Orchestras. He is a composer in residence for the Miami Symphony Orchestra. For more information, http://giancarlocastro.com

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If you would like more information about this topic, please email Dr. Óscar Fernández, osf@pdx.edu.