

VIJAY GUPTA

Vijay Gupta is a violinist, speaker, and passionate advocate for artistic voices at the center of social justice. Gupta joined the Los Angeles Philharmonic in 2007 at age 19, after having completed an undergraduate degree in biology from Marist College and a Master's degree in violin performance from the Yale School of Music. As a 2011 TED Senior Fellow, Gupta founded and began directing Street Symphony, a non-profit organization dedicated to engaging underserved communities experiencing homelessness and incarceration in Los Angeles through musical performance and dialogue. In 2017, Vijay Gupta was nominated and named one of six national Citizen Artist Fellows by the John F Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts.

Vijay Gupta made his solo debut with the Israel Philharmonic Orchestra under the baton of Zubin Mehta at age 11, and has performed as a recitalist, soloist and chamber musician on an international scale since the age of 8. He has also performed as a guest concertmaster with the Los Angeles Opera and the UK's acclaimed Philharmonia Orchestra.

Gupta serves on the faculty of the Longy School of Music of Bard College Masters of Arts in Teaching (MAT) program, which prepares musicians to become agents of change through the study of performance, music pedagogy and social justice. Gupta also serves on the board of directors of the DC-based national arts advocacy organization Americans for the Arts as well as Los Angeles's beloved 24th Street Theatre, which serves to engage, educate and provoke a diverse community with excellent theatre and arts education.

In 2015, Gupta was presented with an honorary Doctor of Humane Letters by the University of La Verne and in 2017, at age 29, was awarded the Leonard Bernstein Lifetime Achievement Award for the Elevation of Music in Society from the Longy School of Music of Bard College.

Vijay Gupta is represented as a speaker by the Lavin Agency. He lives in Echo Park with his wife, Samantha, a candidate for the PhD in Community Psychology at Pacifica Graduate Institute.

VIJAY GUPTA: SHORT BIO

Vijay Gupta is a violinist, speaker and advocate for the power of music to change lives. Gupta joined the LA Philharmonic at 19 after completing a Masters in violin performance from the Yale School of Music and a Bachelor's in biology from Marist College. As a 2011 TED Senior Fellow, Gupta founded Street Symphony, a non-profit organization dedicated to placing music at the heart of social justice, engaging communities in greater Los Angeles experiencing homelessness and incarceration through musical performance and dialogue. In 2017, Gupta was awarded the Leonard Bernstein Lifetime Achievement award by the Longy School of Music of Bard College, and was named a Kennedy Center Citizen Artist Fellow. Gupta believes that musical engagement reconnects us to our shared humanity across vast divides, and ultimately impacts social justice.