

Vijay Gupta believes that the work of the artist and citizen is one: to make a daily practice of the connected, creative, and courageous world we long to live in. Hailed by *The New Yorker* as “a visionary violinist...one of the most radical thinkers in the unradical world of American classical music” Vijay is an esteemed musician, speaker and thought leader, serving to create spaces of belonging, healing and wholeness through music.

Vijay’s labor of love lies in the founding and directing of Street Symphony, which brings music to people in shelters, clinics, county jails and prisons. His work serves to engage people across vast differences to create new connections and transformative conversations. For his work in bringing beauty, respite, and purpose to those all too often ignored by society, while encouraging us to reflect on many ways we can all make a difference and truly be citizens in our world today, Vijay Gupta is the recipient of a 2018 Catherine D. and John T. MacArthur grant.

A dynamic speaker and facilitator, Vijay shares his vision of transformation through artistic practice in the form of musical keynote lectures, workshops and strategic conversations for companies, conferences, universities, and non-profit organizations. In June 2020, Vijay Gupta delivered the 33rd annual Nancy Hanks Lecture on Arts and Public Policy, introduced by the Honorable Speaker Nancy Pelosi, entitled “The Next Response: Practicing the Future, Now”. His 2010 TED Talk, “Music is Medicine, Music is Sanity”, has garnered millions of views. Vijay is a strategic and artistic advisor for organizations across the United States, and serves on the Board of Directors of Americans for the Arts.

An esteemed violinist, Vijay is a recording artist, ardent chamber musician and collaborator. Vijay served as a member of the Los Angeles Philharmonic for 12 years, which he joined as the youngest violinist in the orchestra’s history, and has appeared as a guest concertmaster with the Philharmonia Orchestra of London and Los Angeles Opera. In October 2020, Vijay will headline with Kronos String Quartet in UCLA’s Center for the Art of Performance “Tune In” festival honoring Pete Seeger.

Vijay believes that an artistic and civic practice is a spiritual practice. He embodies a creative “*sadhana*” - the Sanskrit word meaning “daily spiritual practice”, and is the creator of the hashtag *#creativesadhana* on Instagram, where he shares his musical, literary, spiritual and artistic practice. He invites you to create your own *sadhana*, and to follow his journey at [@guptaviolin](#).

Vijay plays on a 2010 violin made by Los Angeles based luthier Eric Benning. His 2012 Kickstarter album *Suryodaya* is available on Spotify.