

Robert Vijay Gupta

Violinist | Speaker | Writer | Founder, Street Symphony
Based in Los Angeles, California [TEDMED - Talks+1](#)

Speaker representation

- The Lavin Agency [The Lavin Agency+1](#)

Summary

- MacArthur Fellow (2018) [Wikipedia+1](#)
- Founder and Artistic Director, Street Symphony (Los Angeles; active since 2011) [Street Symphony+2](#) [Street Symphony+2](#)
- Los Angeles Philharmonic, first violin section (joined 2007 at age 19; served 12 seasons) [TEDMED - Talks+2](#) [TED+2](#)
- TED Speaker; TED Senior Fellow (2011) [TED+2](#) [From the Top+2](#)
- TIME 100 Next (2019) [Wikipedia](#)

Leadership

Street Symphony

- Founder and Artistic Director [Street Symphony+1](#)
- Mission and scope: sustained musical engagement in shelters, jails, transitional housing, and community sites across Los Angeles [Street Symphony+1](#)
- Impact metrics publicly stated by the organization: more than 3,000 performances and workshops since 2011 [Street Symphony](#)

Education and training

- Yale School of Music, Master of Music (Violin Performance) [TEDMED - Talks+1](#)
- Marist College, Bachelor's degree in Biology [TEDMED - Talks+1](#)
- Manhattan School of Music, studies concurrent with undergraduate work [TEDMED - Talks](#)
- Juilliard School, Pre-College Division, studies beginning at age seven [TEDMED - Talks+1](#)
- Principal teachers listed in institutional bios: Ani Kavafian; Glenn Dicterow [From the Top+1](#)

Orchestral appointments

- Los Angeles Philharmonic, first violin section (2007–2019; joined at age 19) [TEDMED - Talks+1](#)

Early career milestone

- Solo debut with the Israel Philharmonic Orchestra conducted by Zubin Mehta (age 11) [TEDMED - Talks+1](#)

Ensembles and affiliations

- Darshan Piano Trio, founding member (with Dominic Cheli, piano; Yoshika Masuda, cello) [Wikipedia](#)
- Tesserae Baroque, member (listed in public bios) [Wikipedia](#)

Honors and fellowships

- American Academy of Arts and Sciences (2024)

- MacArthur Fellowship (2018) [Wikipedia+1](#)
- TIME 100 Next (2019) [Wikipedia](#)
- TED Senior Fellow (2011) [TEDMED - Talks+1](#)
- Kennedy Center Citizen Artist Fellow (2017) [From the Top](#)
- Leonard Bernstein Lifetime Achievement Award (Longy School of Music), listed in institutional biography [From the Top](#)
- Honorary Doctor of Humane Letters (University of La Verne), listed in institutional biography [From the Top](#)

Selected recordings and releases

- When the Violin (2021), recording project cited in public biography sources [Wikipedia](#)

Selected public lectures, keynote addresses, and featured talks

(Only items with a public program page, institutional listing, or recording are included here.)
2025

- Keynote Speaker, Washington Arts Alliance Conference (WAA Conference) [Western Arts Alliance](#)
- Keynote Speaker, ChangeMedEd 2025, American Medical Association [American Medical Association](#)
- Featured talk, “Music as Medicine,” Unlikely Collaborators, Spark Salon (Santa Monica) [Unlikely Collaborators+1](#)
- Public lecture, “Vijay Gupta: The Medicine of Music,” Occidental College (Los Angeles) [Occidental College+1](#)

2024

- Guest Artist Lecture, “Heal Yourself, Heal the World,” Florida State University (Tallahassee) [FSU College of Music](#)

- Featured keynote appearance, American String Teachers Association and Suzuki Association of the Americas conference (ASTA/SAA 2024 coverage) [Violinist.com+1](#)

2021

- Featured speaker, The Richmond Forum (program listing) [Richmond Forum](#)

2020

- 33rd Annual Nancy Hanks Lecture on Arts and Public Policy, Americans for the Arts, "The Next Response: Practicing the Future, Now" (transcript and video) [Americans for the Arts+2](#)[Americans for the Arts+2](#)

2019

- Opening keynote, American Planning Association National Planning Conference (NPC19), San Francisco (conference listing) [American Planning Association+1](#)
- Public presentation, "An Evening with Vijay Gupta," Mayo Clinic Center for Humanities in Medicine (event listing) [Mayo Clinic Connect](#)
- PBS NewsHour feature segment on Street Symphony and Skid Row work (broadcast page) [PBS](#)

2018

- Keynote address noted by attendees, North American Spine Society Annual Meeting (published reflection) [Op-Med](#)

2015

- Keynote Address, "Take a Stand Symposium" (recorded keynote video) [YouTube](#)
- Psych Congress keynote planned and profiled in advance coverage ("The Medicine of Music") [HMP Global Learning Network](#)

TED and related

- TED Speaker profile for Robert Gupta (talk listings and related items) [TED+1](#)
- TEDMED profile (biographical and training summary) [TEDMED - Talks](#)
- TEDxAmericanRiviera talk recording (video listing) [YouTube](#)

Selected institutional and presenter biographies

(Useful as press-packet references for consistent wording and vetted claims.)

- Street Symphony founder biography page (includes representation statement) [Street Symphony](#)
- Lavin Agency speaker page [The Lavin Agency+1](#)
- LA Phil artist profile [LA Phil](#)
- TED and TEDMED profiles [TED+1](#)

Instrument

- 2010 violin made by Los Angeles luthier Eric Benning (listed in public bios)

Forthcoming book

- Restrung (memoir), publication stated in public bio materials