

THE MEDICINE OF MUSIC

VIJAY (ROBERT) GUPTA

FOUNDER OF STREET SYMPHONY,
TED SENIOR FELLOW, &
MENTAL HEALTH ADVOCATE



Vijay (Robert) Gupta is a violinist whose interest in neurobiology and mental health issues has made him a world renowned advocate for the redemptive and regenerative power of music. A TED Senior Fellow, Gupta directs the organization Street Symphony—a free classical music concert series for the unaided mentally-ill living in homeless, incarcerated, and Veteran communities.

Gupta has performed internationally as a soloist and chamber musician since the age of eight; after joining the LA Philharmonic, he became the friend and violin instructor of Nathaniel Anthony Ayers—the homeless, mentally ill musician who was the subject of LA Times Columnist Steve Lopez's book *The Soloist*, and the movie by the same title (starring Jaimie Foxx and Robert Downey Jr.). In his talks, Gupta explores music's ability to change our brains, heal ailments, and ultimately, transform lives.

Gupta holds a master's in music from Yale and made his solo debut, at age 11, with the Israel Philharmonic. As an undergrad, where he studied Pre-med, Gupta was part of several research projects in neuro-and neurodegenerative biology. He held Research Assistant positions at CUNY Hunter College in New York City, where he worked on spinal cord neuronal regeneration, and at the Harvard Institutes of Medicine Center for Neurologic Diseases, where he studied the biochemical pathology of Parkinson's disease.

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THURSDAY
SEPTEMBER 18
ACB 100
NOON

Free lunch will be provided to the first 100 attendees!

Robert Gupta will also speak on the topic of music education at the International Cultural Center Auditorium (601 Indiana Ave) at 6:00 pm.

Both events are free and open to the public.