

Preview video here: <https://youtu.be/Id0qtvxZ9hw>

The Soraya embarks on an epic road trip with *MusiKaravan!*

This series follows next Artist in Residence Étienne Gara and fellow violinist YuEun Gemma Kim in their vintage VW Van during the pandemic as they safely spread music and joy throughout California

[MusiKaravan!](#) hits the road Thursday, May 6 at thesoraya.org

(Los Angeles, CA) April xx, 2021 — Fasten your seatbelts as The Soraya is about to embark on a journey with *MusiKaravan!* the first project by The Soraya’s next **Artist in Residence**, violinist and founder of *Delirium Musicum*, **Étienne Gara**.

Like many musicians facing the global pandemic, Étienne Gara and fellow violinist YuEun Gemma Kim – for the first time in their professional lives – found themselves with unlimited time and no performances on their schedules. So, for six months during the height of the COVID-19 pandemic, Étienne and YuEun lived out of their vintage 1971 Volkswagen van and performed socially-distanced concerts for farm workers, winemakers, random passersby, and even the occasional Ostrich.

As *MusiKaravan!*, their goal is to celebrate the people who are “working hard to feed us physically and emotionally with quality products.” They filmed their journey; each film highlighting a different part of California where Étienne and YuEun performed pop-up and outdoor performances.

“During this difficult time for all of us, Étienne and YuEun took to the California highways in their MusiKaravan and brought the joys of music and hope to all they met,” said The Soraya’s Executive and Artistic Director Thor Steingraber. “The farm workers, winemakers and others they met along the road were transported to the world that only live music can bring us. For next few months, The Soraya will now be home to *MusiKaravan!* as we present the complete film series showcasing their epic adventure.”

As the official presenter of *MusiKaravan!*, The Soraya will premiere the full series of short films – one each week for at least 12 weeks - beginning May 6 online at thesoraya.org with special

stops along the way including a celebratory visit to The Soraya. Music lovers and travel enthusiasts alike will take part in this unfolding journey by viewing episodes released on The Soraya's and *MusiKaravan!*'s social media channels.

Étienne, Artistic Director of *Delirium Musicum*, regularly performs with the Los Angeles Philharmonic at Walt Disney Concert Hall and at the Hollywood Bowl. He has recorded a solo album on a Stradivarius from 1714, performs internationally, and was featured on Leonard Cohen's last album. He will be in residence at The Soraya for two years spanning the 21/22 and 22/23 seasons. More details about additional projects during his residency will be announced when each Soraya season launches.

Violinist YuEun Gemma Kim is a founder and Managing Director of *Delirium Musicum*, a self-conducted chamber ensemble dedicated to providing impassioned and engaging musical performances that deeply connect the audience to the musicians. She is international competition winner, performs around the world and has a YouTube channel boasting over 6,000,000 views.

About The Soraya's Artist in Residence Étienne Gara.

Praised for the warm tone and expressiveness of his playing, French born violinist Étienne Gara has performed extensively worldwide in some of the most renowned venues. Internationally broadcast on TV and radio and numerous awards winner, he recorded in 2014 on the Leonora Jackson, a 1714 Stradivarius, an album of French music titled "French Recital".

Gara cultivates a boundary breaking curiosity that brought him to be featured on Leonard Cohen's last album and to found the award winning Sunset Club Trio, an ensemble joining the forces of the violin, the electric and the flamenco guitars in their own arrangements of the great classical repertoire. He also created "Sketches of Miles", a production that brings together the classical and the jazz worlds.

In addition to his solo career, his creative musical productions, and his activities as guest principal violin with many ensembles brought him to perform in halls such as Disney Concert Hall and the Nokia Theatre in Los Angeles. He has been the concertmaster and artistic director of the "Neo-Baroque" conductorless Kontrapunktus Chamber Orchestra between 2015 and 2018 and took part in the recording of the debut album of the ensemble.

In 2018, he founded the award-winning conductorless chamber orchestra *Delirium Musicum*, an ensemble dedicated to providing impassioned and engaging musical performances influenced by the bustling artistic mosaic of LA. He also records for the movie and TV industry.

A graduate of the New England Conservatory, with Donald Weilerstein, he also studied with Midori at the University of Southern California. Among many international festivals, he was invited to join star violinist Itzhak Perlman at his festival in NY, as well as residencies in

Sarasota, Florida, and Israel. Previously, Gara served as Artist in Residence 2019 at USC's Brain and Creativity Institute, led by Prof. Antonio Damasio.

Background piece about Delirium Musicam "Two for the Road: A Pair of Violinists Make the Best of a Bad Year" by Jim Farber. *San Francisco Classical Voice* September 19, 2020

<https://www.sfcv.org/articles/feature/two-road-pair-violinists-make-best-bad-year>

About Younes and Soraya Nazarian Center for the Performing Arts (The Soraya)

The 2020-21 Season marks the tenth anniversary year for the award-winning Younes and Soraya Nazarian Center for the Performing Arts which has quickly become one of the cultural jewels of the greater Los Angeles region. Under the leadership of Executive Director Thor Steingraber, The Soraya continues to expand its programming and outstanding multidisciplinary performances. The Soraya presents a wide variety of performances that not only include new and original work from the Los Angeles region but also work from around the world appealing to all of LA's rich and diverse communities.

Located on the campus of California State University, Northridge, The Soraya's season offers a vibrant performance program of nearly 50 classical and popular music, dance, theater, family, and international events that have served to establish The Soraya as the intellectual and cultural heart of the San Fernando Valley, and further establish itself as one of the top arts companies in Southern California. The award-winning, 1,700-seat theatre was designed by HGA Architects and Engineers and was recently cited by the Los Angeles Times as "a growing hub for live music, dance, drama and other cultural events."

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