

TAKE A STAND
SYMPOSIUM 2015
LOS ANGELES • OCTOBER 6-7, 2015

**INTERNATIONAL TEACHING FACULTY
BIOGRAPHIES**

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Mariesther Alvarez

String Specialist; Boston String Academy – Director



Venezuelan violinist Mariesther Alvarez holds a Master of Music Degree and a Graduate Performance Diploma from The Boston Conservatory, where she studied with Professor Rictor Noren. Mariesther is a graduate of Venezuela's *El Sistema*. In Venezuela she was a member of the Lara Symphony Orchestra, Barquisimeto Youth Symphony, Amadeus Chamber Orchestra, and the National Youth Orchestra of Venezuela. Mariesther has attended a number of international festivals, including the Kuhmo Chamber Music Festival and the Liminka International Music Course in Finland, Prelude Music Academy in Wisconsin and Argentina, and the summer violin seminars held by the Latin American Violin Academy in Venezuela. She has had the privilege of working with numerous internationally acclaimed artists, such as Gustavo Dudamel, Giuseppe Sinopoli, Pamela Frank, Joseph Silverstein, Andres Cardenes, Mela Tenenbaum, and the Berlin Philharmonic String Quartet. Along with her sister Marielisa, Mariesther is co-founder and director of the Boston String Academy, a non-profit organization

inspired by El Sistema. It provides a vibrant string orchestra program to inner-city students in the Boston area. Ms. Alvarez is a faculty member at Longy School of Music of Bard College and its Sistema Side-by-Side Series. She has collaborated with El Sistema in Venezuela and El Sistema-inspired programs in Mexico and the U.S., such as YOLA, Play on Philly!, Atlanta Music Project, American School Foundation of Chiapas, and Kids 4 Harmony in Pittsfield, MA where she has been mentoring teachers and students intensively since fall of 2013.

Ruben Hernandez

Percussion specialist; San Diego Community Opus Project – Percussion Teaching Artist



Ruben Hernandez began his musical studies on drums at the age of 14 at Casa de la Cultura, in Tijuana-Mexico. He continued his studies in classical percussion at the Conservatory of the Baja California Orchestra (OBC) with Jorge Peña (Principal Percussion, OBC). Ruben received his BA in Music Education & Percussion Performance at San Diego State University, where he studied classical percussion with Greg Cohen (Principal Percussion – San Diego Symphony), drum-set with Mike Holguin, and Afro-Latin percussion with Mark Lamson and John Flood. He has attended several masterclasses and clinics with important and well-known percussionists, including: Evelyn Glennie, Terry

Bozzio, Carl Palmer (Emerson, Lake & Palmer), and Joel Bluestone (Portland State University). His work as a classical player has allowed him to perform alongside well-known composers, conductors, players and orchestras, including: Eduardo Diaz-Muñoz, Matthew Rowe, Eduardo Garcia Barrios, Armando Pesqueira, Michael Daugherty, Steven Bryant, Dimitri Dudin, Catalin Rotaru, Horacio Franco, Regina Orozco, International Philharmonic of the Californias, Tijuana Camerata, and several others. Outside of classical music, his work as percussionist has allowed him to perform with a variety of ensembles, from Mexican folk music, to rock, jazz, and flamenco. He is currently a member of Blue Kiss Trio (Classical-Jazz-Crossover), Elixir Solar (Flamenco-Classical-Bossa-Fusion), and the Folk-Rock-Klezmer band La Ballena de Jonas. He also serves as a guest for the Baja California Orchestra, Tijuana Camerata, and for Madame Ur y sus Hombres (Jazzy Trip-Hop). He teaches percussion and drums at the San Diego Youth Symphony, OPUS Community Project and the Tijuana Youth Symphony. Ruben Hernandez proudly uses: Dream Cymbals, Innovative Percussion Sticks and Mallets, Grover Pro Percussion, JG Percussion Timpani Mallets and REMO Drumheads.



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Emily Kubitskey

Woodwind Specialist; Youth Orchestra Los Angeles at Heart of Los Angeles – Woodwind Specialist



Emily Kubitskey received her Master of Education, M. Ed., from the Peabody College of Education at Vanderbilt University and her Bachelor in Clarinet Performance from the Blair School of Music at Vanderbilt University. Now, as a Teaching Artist in the Los Angeles area, Emily's passion and career is creating an environment in which all children, particularly those who are underserved, have the opportunity to thrive personally and socially through music. Currently, Emily is a Wind Ensemble Director and the Woodwind Specialist for the Los Angeles Philharmonic's signature El Sistema program – YOLA (Youth Orchestra Los Angeles). She was a member of the inaugural staff for YOLA at HOLA in the Rampart District and helped build the wind program from the ground up to now serve over 100 students. Between 2010 and 2014, Emily was also a Curriculum Writer and Teaching Artist for the LA

Phil's In-School Residency Program. In this position, she created, presented, and taught curricula implemented in over 15 LAUSD schools, to hundreds of teachers, and over 6,000 students. Additionally, Emily is a Master Teacher for the Colburn Conservatory, where her current appointment includes conducting the top Wind Ensembles at Cortines Visual and Performing Arts High School in Downtown Los Angeles, as well as teaching AP Music Theory. Most recently, Emily was brought on to the faculty of the Longy School of Music of Bard College's MAT Program in Los Angeles. Through this position she teaches a course on the integration of a social curriculum in El Sistema programs, as well as supervising the students in their YOLA-site practicum. In addition to serving the needs of the El Sistema philosophy in Los Angeles, Emily travels internationally as an Educational Consultant. Throughout the last year, she has consulted with programs in Indiana, Minnesota, Sweden, and Milan.

Steven Liu

Bass Specialist; Miami Music Project – Director of Educational Programming



Steven Liu received an M.F.A. in Jazz ('06) and a Bachelors degree in Music Performance: Classical Double Bass ('03) from The Claire Trevor School of the Arts at the University of California, Irvine. Steven was also one of the ten Sistema Fellows trained at New England Conservatory in 2011. At the conclusion of the fellowship, Steven was hired by the Allentown Symphony to create and implement an education initiative focused on transforming the life trajectory of at-risk youth: El Sistema Lehigh Valley. Steven has extensive educational experiences, which include teaching for the Los Angeles Philharmonic's Education Department and traveling to various schools throughout the Los Angeles Unified School District to aid in young musicians' development. In addition to this, Steven was an Artist in Residence for the Pasadena Symphony, where he led classes that connected science and music by creating and performing on non-traditional home-made instruments. As a musician, Steven's diverse musical background has allowed him to perform concerts halls, Broadway shows, and jazz combos wherever he has lived.



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Cosima Luther

Violin Specialist; Youth Orchestra Los Angeles at Expo – Strings Teaching Artist



Cosima Luther is an active violinist in Los Angeles, having performed in Germany, Spain, Finland, Norway, Sweden, Denmark, Poland, England, Scotland, Wales, South Korea, Italy, France, Austria, and China. She has shared the stage with artists such as Stevie Wonder, Janet Jackson, Carrie Underwood, Natalie Cole, Quincy Jones, and Christina Aguilera. Equally passionate as a teacher and conductor, Cosima instructs violin classes at the Crossroads School for the Arts in Santa Monica, and is the head violin teacher of Gustavo Dudamel's Youth Orchestra of Los Angeles. She recently completed five seasons as the conductor and director of the South Bay Youth Orchestra. Cosima received her BA in violin performance from Pepperdine University, studying violin with Mitchell Newman and her MM Degree from USC's Thornton School of Music under the tutelage of Eudice Shapiro, Suli Xue, and Larry Livingston. Cosima is adjunct Professor of Violin at Pepperdine University, a responsibility that includes teaching at the Pepperdine University summer music program in Heidelberg, Germany as a chamber coach, and as a guest performing artist. Cosima rigorously pursues her conducting career, receiving the highest of recommendation from her teachers Harold Farberman and Leon Botstein since attending the Bard College Conductors Institute for three summers as a Fellow conductor. Recently, Luther was guest conductor of the Western States Honor Orchestra Festival of Colorado, located at the University of Northern Colorado.

Juan Felipe Molano

Conductor; Youth Orchestra Los Angeles – Conductor



Juan Felipe Molano graduated with special honors as an orchestral and opera conductor from the Vienna Conservatory with Reinhard Schwarz and Georg Mark having master classes with conductors such as Kurt Masur and Vladimir Fedoseyev. Molano has led prominent orchestras in Spain, Italy, Norway, Germany, Slovakia, Austria, Mexico, Colombia and Brazil such as the Slovak Radio Symphony Orchestra, YOA Orchestra of the Americas, OSUANL (Monterrey, Mexico), Jove Orquestra de la Generalitat Valenciana, Morelia Symphony Orchestra, Euskadiko Ikasleen Orkestra, Via dei Concerti Orchestra, Medellin Philharmonic, Eafit University Symphony, among many others, acting as frequent guest conductor of the Bogota Philharmonic and Colombian National Symphony. He was Music Director and Principal Conductor of the Yucatan Symphony Orchestra (YSO) in Mexico from 2003-2008, which has since become one of the Mexico's most prestigious orchestra, and has worked with renowned artists like Ryu Goto, Ilya Gringolts, Eric Aubier, Cuarteto Latinoamericano, Joseph de Pasquale, among others. After an international search and audition by the Los Angeles Philharmonic Molano was appointed in 2014 as the conductor for Youth Orchestra Los Angeles (YOLA). He has held that position also with the Colombian Youth Philharmonic, Youth Orchestra Salinas (California), Caldas Chamber Orchestra, Cali Youth Philharmonic and Bogota Youth Philharmonic. During 2008-2013 he was the National Orchestral Director of Batuta Colombian System of Youth Orchestras (El Sistema - Colombia). He has contributed as speaker and leader to several international conferences, workshops and seminars around the world such as: First International Teaching Artist Conference (Norway), First National Conference for Youth Symphony Orchestra Conductors (Argentina), Take a Stand International Symposium 2012 & 2014 (Los Angeles, California), YOA Leaders International Seminar (online streaming), Batuta Teachers training program (Colombia), among many others. Maestro Molano divides his musical activities between pedagogy, conducting and consulting.



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Linnea Powell

Viola Specialist; Youth Orchestra Los Angeles at LA County High School for the Arts – Viola TA



A native of Northern California, Linnea Powell enjoys a multifaceted career as a music educator and freelance violist in and around Los Angeles. Linnea is a founding Viola Teaching Artist with the LA Philharmonic's Youth Orchestra Los Angeles at the Los Angeles County High School of the Arts. A passionate educator dedicated to strengthening communities through music education, Linnea strives to inspire a life-long love of music in her students. In 2012, Linnea helped to develop and implement the El Sistema Santa Cruz pilot program to provide underserved areas of Santa Cruz County with afterschool music education. Committed to youth chamber music, Linnea is the Associate Director for the Los Angeles and Conejo Valley branches of Junior Chamber Music and is a strings coach for Manhattan Beach's Community Chamber Music. She also maintains an active private teaching studio. Linnea has performed as a soloist, orchestral musician, and chamber musician throughout the United States, the Netherlands, Portugal, Austria, Canada, and Guatemala. An avid interpreter of new chamber music, Linnea is a member of the Los Angeles new music collective Wild Up and recently founded Aperture Duo, a new violin/viola duo with violinist Adrienne Pope. Linnea has performed and recorded with numerous orchestras and ensembles around Southern California. Linnea earned her Masters degree and artist diploma in viola performance from the University of Michigan where she was the graduate teaching assistant to Yizhak Schotten and violist of the Rosseels Graduate String Quartet. She received her Bachelors degree in viola performance with honors from the University of California, Santa Cruz.

Christopher Schroeder

High Brass Specialist; Conservatory Lab Charter – High Brass Teaching Artist



Boston-based musician, Christopher Schroeder is a catalyst for social change through music education, using his experience as a conductor and trumpeter to connect with and inspire musicians of all ages and bring communities together. An active conductor and music educator in the New England area, Schroeder is Music Director for the Cape Youth Orchestra on Cape Cod, MA; Director of Brass and Winds, and Music Director of the Dudamel Orchestra for Conservatory Lab Charter's El Sistema-inspired program in Boston; and is on the education faculty at Longy School of Music of Bard College, working with their El Sistema Side by Side program. From the podium, he connects with and motivates ensembles to achieve their highest level of musicianship, while instilling character traits that transcend rehearsal spaces. Having begun his career as a performer at Walt Disney World, creating a synergy with audiences through entertaining and participatory programming has continued to be an essential ingredient in every performance. Schroeder has experienced the transformative power of Sistema first-hand in his work at Conservatory Lab since its inception in 2010. He has also had opportunities to observe and teach in Sistema programs in Venezuela, Scotland and across the United States. Since 2012, Schroeder has presented at numerous conferences throughout the nation on Sistema, music-infused academic curriculum and best practices for creating and sustaining successful music programs. In 2013, Schroeder was recognized as a Top 10 Finalist for "Best of US" national search to help identify and celebrate the unsung heroes that make America great. In 2014, Schroeder was invited to join Conn Selmer's "Education Support Network," a team of 25 nationally recognized music educators dedicated to sharing best practices and teaching strategies with music educators throughout the nation.



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Dan Trahey

Low Brass Specialist; OrchKids – Director



Dan Trahey is a renowned musician, educator, and innovator. He was instrumental in the creation of the Baltimore Symphony Orchestra's "OrchKids" program where he currently serves as Artistic Director. Dan also founded the El Sistema inspired program "Tuned In" at the Peabody Conservatory. As a tuba player with The Archipelago Project, he travels the world promoting cross genre performances and has performed for children specifically targeting impoverished areas with little access to live performance. Dan has held orchestral positions in Mexico, the United States, and Germany. Dan received a Masters of Music from Yale, and a Bachelors of Music Education from Johns Hopkins University. Dan's work has been widely recognized and featured in publications such as 60 Minutes, PBS, NPR, The New York Times, The Washington Post, and in 2014 was named the Most Valuable Player in the Arts by Baltimore Magazine. Additionally, Dan was asked to present at TEDx Baltimore. Dan's past teaching experience includes the Baltimore School for the Arts, Idyllwild Arts, and New England Conservatory. He currently holds teaching residencies with the Innsbruck Musikschule, Tyrole, Austria; Nucleo,

Acarigua, in Portuguesa, Venezuela, and in the Traverse City Michigan Public School. Dan also teaches Music Entrepreneurship at the University of Maryland Baltimore County and Creative Leadership and Composition at The Peabody Conservatory. Dan is a sought after consultant for programs desiring to use music as a vehicle for social change. In addition to founding two El Sistema programs in Baltimore, Dan has helped start countless programs including Charlotte, Chicago, Fort Worth, Orange County, Allentown, Waterbury, Alexandria, and Kalamazoo. Dan has worked with the Chicago Symphony Orchestra, Orchestra of St. Lukes, The Grand Rapids Symphony, Los Angeles Philharmonic, Opera North, Philadelphia Orchestra, MusAid, SouthBanke Center, Liverpool Philharmonic, National Youth Orchestra of Belize and The Calgary Philharmonic.

Mark Woodward

Choir/Musicianship Specialist; Portland Bravo – Artistic Director



An energetic conductor and pedagogue, Mark Woodward is the Artistic Director of BRAVO Youth Orchestras in Portland, Oregon. He oversees BRAVO's team of teaching artists, interns, and volunteers. Mark conducts the advanced string orchestra and choir, and provides professional development to teaching artists in their sectionals. Mark has been the principal architect of BRAVO's dynamic approach to strings curriculum where he weaves rigorous solfège singing and student composition into musical activities and the orchestra's formal repertoire. Mark arranges much of the BRAVO repertoire, catering each new arrangement to fit the specific pedagogical needs of the orchestra. He has composed or arranged over one hundred pieces of classical, folk, and world music for his various ensembles. In 2008, he was the recipient of The Sinquefield Prize in composition and in 2012, named the winner of the Best of the Northwest: Young Composer Competition. His compositions and arrangements have been performed by Portland Vocal Consort, Boston's Juventus New Music Ensemble, and the Oregon

Symphony. Mark has served as Associate Conductor of Pacific Youth Choir and on faculty at Portland's Community Music Center and Multnomah Arts Center. Mark holds a Master of Music degree from the University of Missouri. When he's not working on arrangements or transporting students to weekend orchestra rehearsals, Mark enjoys urban exploration, cultivating and pruning plants, and creating paper art. And still, you will likely find him sharing food with friends and asking them to sight-read a motet.

