Longy’s Second Annual El Sistema Summer Academy
Will Welcome Over 80 Students from El Sistema Programs in Greater Boston and from Chiapas, Mexico
August 11–22, 2014 | Longy School of Music of Bard College’s Cambridge Campus

CAMBRIDGE, Mass. On August 11, 2014, Longy School of Music of Bard College will commence its second annual El Sistema Summer Academy on its Cambridge campus. The two-week program is designed by the faculty and staff at Longy especially for students from El Sistema-inspired programs across the Greater Boston area to foster friendships, enhance musical artistry and promote leadership skills. The 80 young musicians, ranging in age from 7 to 12, will be mentored by Longy faculty, guest faculty and graduate students and will also be exposed to community-building activities like yoga, singing, dance and theatre games.

This year the Summer Academy will welcome students from the American School Foundation of Chiapas, Mexico. Longy faculty members, Summer Academy Artistic Directors and founders of the Boston String Academy, Marielisa and Mariesther Alvarez met the students while teaching in Mexico this summer with the program’s founder, Peruvian cellist Taide Prieto. Ms. Prieto, who helped the Alvarez sisters start the Boston String Academy, will join Longy’s summer faculty.

“We are delighted to bring these young, budding musicians from Chiapas to Cambridge to participate in the program,” said Artistic Director Mariesther Alvarez. “We know they will truly benefit from the experience of the Summer Academy, and the rest of the students will benefit from learning alongside them.”

The program will culminate in two concerts featuring all the Summer Academy students performing alongside members of the Longy Conservatory Orchestra and Summer Academy faculty Marielisa and Mariesther Alvarez, Jorge Montilla, Courtney Getzin, Taide Prieto and David Hurtado, all under the direction of Jorge Soto. The first concert will be performed in Harvard Square at 3 p.m. on August 21. The second will be at 4 p.m. on August 22 at Longy’s Edward M. Pickman Concert Hall. Both concerts are free and open to the public.

About Longy School of Music of Bard College
Longy School of Music of Bard College, founded as Longy School of Music almost 100 years ago in 1915 by renowned oboist Georges Longy, is a degree-granting conservatory located in Cambridge, Mass. The school serves 250 undergraduate and graduate students from 37 states and 20 countries at its central Cambridge campus and recently opened a Master of Arts in Teaching (MAT) program in Los Angeles, Calif., on the campus of Heart of Los Angeles (HOLA), with YOLA at HOLA serving as its anchoring learning lab for Sistema-inspired programs. Longy’s mission is to prepare musicians to make a difference in the world. It is rapidly gaining international recognition for its efforts to meet a changing musical landscape head-on, giving its classically trained graduates the skills to perform, the ambition to teach and the ability to reach new audiences and new communities beyond those traditionally associated with classical music.

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Interviews & High Res Images
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