

## Opera Legend Frederica von Stade to be Honored at

### Longy School of Music of Bard College's Sistema Side by Side 2015 Celebration

Will receive Leonard Bernstein Lifetime Achievement Award for the Elevation of Music in Society

March 20, 2015 at 7 p.m., Harvard University's Sanders Theatre

CAMBRIDGE, Mass. □ World-renowned singer and artist [Frederica von Stade](#) will receive the **Leonard Bernstein Lifetime Achievement Award for the Elevation of Music in Society** at Longy's 2015 Sistema Side by Side Celebration, on Friday, March 20 at Sanders Theatre. Ms. von Stade will also perform with Longy's [Sistema Side by Side Orchestra](#), under the baton of the orchestra's newly appointed Music Director Jorge Soto.

Longy's Sistema Side by Side Orchestra features 60 students from El-Sistema inspired programs throughout Massachusetts and members of the Longy Conservatory Orchestra. The program will feature orchestral masterpieces *Brahms Hungarian Dance No 5* and Dvorák's Symphony No. 9 in e minor, as well as classic and playful tunes such as Rodgers and Hammerstein's "Do Re Mi" from *The Sound of Music*.

The award was authorized by the Bernstein family and established by Longy in 2000 and has celebrated great artists such as Gustavo Dudamel, Eileen Farrell, Marilyn Horne, Leonard Slatkin, Mark Morris, Leon Botstein and Gunther Schuller. With this award, Longy recognizes an artistic leader whose life has been dedicated to inspiring and enriching lives through music. The Bernstein laureate, whether as a performer or teacher, exemplifies how music can lift spirits, raise the level of culture in society, and transform lives. Bernstein's daughter, writer, filmmaker and broadcaster **Jamie Bernstein** will join **Longy President Karen Zorn** for the award presentation.

The evening is part of an ongoing series of events at Longy that pairs students from El Sistema-inspired programs throughout Massachusetts with [Longy's Conservatory Orchestra](#) in rehearsals and performances conducted by nationally renowned conductors and guest artists. The program launched publicly in grand style in March of 2014 with an open rehearsal of the Side by Side Orchestra under the direction of **Gustavo Dudamel, Grammy Award-winning music director of the Los Angeles Philharmonic** in MIT's Kresge Auditorium. Since then, the orchestra has worked with members of the **Simón Bolívar String Quartet** and given an enthusiastically received performance for **Maestro José Antonio Abreu**, founder of El Sistema.

A celebratory dinner will follow the concert. Tickets to the event are available at [longy.edu/gala](http://longy.edu/gala). Proceeds from the gala will support Longy's ongoing work as a leader in the El Sistema-inspired movement in the U.S. and scholarships and teaching assistantships for Longy Conservatory students.

#### About Frederica von Stade

Recognized as one of the most beloved musical figures of our time, Frederica von Stade has enriched the world of classical music for three decades with her appearances in opera, concert, and recital. The mezzo-soprano is well known to audiences around the world through her numerous appearances on television, including several PBS specials and "Live for Lincoln Center" telecasts. She has made over 60 recordings with every major label, including complete operas, aria albums, symphonic works, solo recitals programs, and popular crossover albums. Her recordings have garnered six Grammy nominations, two Grand Prix du Disc awards, the Deutsche Schallplattenpreis, Italy's Premio della Critica Discografica, and "Best of the Year" citations by Stereo Review and Opera News. Von Stade was awarded France's highest honor in the arts when she was appointed as an officer of L'Ordre des Arts et des Lettres, and in 1983 she was honored with an award given at the White House by President Reagan in recognition of her significant contribution to the arts.

### **About Longy School of Music of Bard College**

Longy School of Music of Bard College, founded as Longy School of Music in 1915 by renowned oboist Georges Longy, is a degree-granting conservatory located in Cambridge, Massachusetts. The school serves approximately 250 undergraduate and graduate students from 36 states and 27 countries at its central Cambridge campus and recently opened a Master of Arts in Teaching (MAT) in Music program in Los Angeles, California.

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.

### **Press Inquiries**

Interviews, Press Passes & High  
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### **Longy Gala Information**

Sanders Theatre

March 20, 2015 □ 7 p.m.

Tickets & Information:

[longy.edu/gala](http://longy.edu/gala)

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