Longy Launches “Sistema Side by Side” Series
To Mentor Young Musicians from Massachusetts El Sistema Programs.

The series culminates in rehearsal with Gustavo Dudamel,
Music Director of the Los Angeles Philharmonic.

Cambridge, MA: Longy School of Music of Bard College today announced the launch of “Sistema Side by Side,” a year-long series of events that will pair Massachusetts El Sistema students with Longy’s Conservatory Orchestra in rehearsals and performances conducted by nationally renowned conductors, including Gustavo Dudamel, Music Director of the Los Angeles Philharmonic.

Longy, a Cambridge-based conservatory whose mission includes a social imperative to bring music to underserved audiences, has become a leading proponent in the U.S. of El Sistema, the Venezuelan social movement that addresses issues of poverty through music.

In the Sistema Side-by-Side series, students ranging in age from 8 to 15 from local El Sistema programs, or “nucleos”, will gather throughout the year at Longy for joint rehearsals with Longy’s Conservatory Orchestra.

“What is so great about this project is that we are able to give these young musicians access to a spectacular musical experience, while also giving our graduate students a valuable understanding of the El Sistema approach,” said Longy President Karen Zorn. “You’ll see our graduate students sharing music stands with these younger musicians, many of whom come from underserved communities in Massachusetts, each playing an equally important part in the orchestra’s performance.”

Rehearsals will be led by nationally renowned conductors, including Dudamel and Leon Botstein, president of Bard College and conductor of the American Symphony Orchestra.
“The rehearsal with Dudamel is a pretty incredible opportunity for these students,” said Zorn. “Not only is he widely recognized as one of the world’s most charismatic conductors, but he’s also the most visible graduate of the El Sistema system in Venezuela.”

The first performance, at Sanders Theatre on November 22, will be under the direction of Longy Conservatory Orchestra conductor Geoffrey McDonald, while the second performance, also at Sanders Theatre on February 7, will be led by Maestro Botstein. The series will conclude at MIT’s Kresge Auditorium on March 22 with an open rehearsal under Dudamel’s music direction.

The series is modeled on Venezuela’s successful musical mentoring approach, where 500,000 children from some of the nation’s most underserved communities now perform in thriving youth orchestras. Through its embrace of El Sistema and its development of a new Master of Arts in Teaching (MAT) in Music program in Los Angeles, which trains musicians to teach in El Sistema-inspired programs, Longy has embarked on preparing its classically trained graduates to share their performance and teaching skills with new audiences and new communities.

The open rehearsal with Maestro Dudamel on March 22 is made possible by a collaboration between Longy, Celebrity Series of Boston, and the Los Angeles Philharmonic. The event will take place as part of TAKE A STAND, Longy’s partnership with the LA Phil dedicated to supporting social change through music. Longy and Celebrity Series of Boston, who is presenting the LA Phil’s Symphony Hall performance on March 23, are in their second year of a musical Debut Series partnership that offers Longy students the opportunity to engage with featured Celebrity Series artists.

The Sanders Theatre performances are free and open to the public. Tickets to the open rehearsal at Kresge are free but extremely limited, and more information about attending this event will be released in January. For information about these and other Longy events, please visit www.longy.edu.

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 Harvard Square in Cambridge, Massachusetts. The school serves 250 undergraduate and graduate students from 37 states and 20 countries at our central Cambridge campus and recently opened Master of Arts in Teaching campus in Los Angeles, California. For all students, Longy provides a distinguished faculty that promotes profound musical understanding and technical mastery, encourages growth of imagination, and fosters inquiry about the role of music and the musician in the larger world. With a curriculum rooted in the traditions of Western music, Longy’s mission is to prepare musicians to make a difference in the world.

About Celebrity Series of Boston
The Celebrity Series has been bringing the very best performers—from orchestras and chamber ensembles, vocal and piano music, to dance companies, jazz, and more—to Boston’s major concert halls for 75 years. Founded in 1938 by pianist and impresario Aaron Richmond, Celebrity Series has presented an array of the world’s greatest performing artists, including Sergei Rachmaninoff, Arturo Toscanini, Artur Rubenstein, Vladimir Horowitz, Isaac Stern, Marian Anderson, Luciano Pavarotti, Béla
Bartók, Igor Stravinsky, Martha Graham, Mikhail Baryshnikov, and the New York City Opera Company. The Celebrity Series of Boston believes in the power of excellence and innovation in the performing arts to enrich life experiences, transform lives and build better communities. Visit us online at www.celebrityseries.org.

About the Los Angeles Philharmonic
The Los Angeles Philharmonic Association, under the vibrant leadership of Music Director Gustavo Dudamel, presents an inspiring array of music from all genres – orchestral, chamber and Baroque music, organ and celebrity recitals, new music, jazz, world music and pop – at two of L.A.’s iconic venues, Walt Disney Concert Hall (www.laphil.com) and the Hollywood Bowl (www.hollywoodbowl.com). The LA Phil’s season at Walt Disney Concert Hall extends from September through May, and throughout the summer at the Hollywood Bowl. With the preeminent Los Angeles Philharmonic at the foundation of its offerings, the LA Phil aims to enrich and transform lives through music, with a robust mix of artistic, education and community programs.

About Take a Stand
TAKE A STAND, a partnership between the Los Angeles Philharmonic and Longy School of Music of Bard College, supports social change through music, provides a national platform for pioneering educators, and advances work in music education within the United States, inspired by Venezuela’s El Sistema. The bi-coastal alliance leverages the synergies of the LA Phil’s robust existing program YOLA (Youth Orchestra Los Angeles), and Longy School of Music of Bard College’s experience in developing renowned academic and socially based training programs, and role as a leader in progressive and rigorous training for performing and teaching musicians. Based on the El Sistema model, TAKE A STAND seeks to unite music programs throughout the U.S., providing leaders with tools for growth through a series of conferences and workshops, and creating a pipeline of music teachers to be trained via the launch of a new Master of Arts in Teaching (MAT) in Music degree program, all based in Los Angeles.

http://www.take-a-stand.org/
http://www.laphil.com/education/yola

About El Sistema
El Sistema founder Dr. José Antonio Abreu has developed a comprehensive music education philosophy that stresses the important link for children between the intense study of music, and improved self-esteem, communication skills, and curiosity. Abreu’s model program offers young children and teenagers the opportunity to participate in rigorous music training – from the basics of rhythm to advanced orchestral performance – for up to six days a week at El Sistema community music programs, or nucleos. Since its inception over 35 years ago, the program has taught more than one million of Venezuela’s underserved children, changing students’ lives and transforming the communities around them. www.fesnojiv.gob.ve/en

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