Longy School of Music of Bard College Closes out Centennial Festivities with 2016 Commencement

CAMBRIDGE, Mass. Longy School of Music of Bard College will close out a year of centennial festivities with the 2016 commencement weekend, May 12-14. The events begin with a performance by the Longy Conservatory Orchestra at First Church in Cambridge at 8:00 p.m. on May 12, 2016. The concert will feature works by Mendelssohn and Debussy, under the baton of Conductor Jorge Soto, who is also the music director for Longy’s Sistema Side by Side Orchestra.

On May 14, Longy’s commencement ceremony will take place at 1:00 p.m. at First Church in Cambridge. Longy will honor 97 graduating students, including 55 Master of Music students. The commencement address will be delivered by guest speaker Tony Brown, the award-winning executive director of Heart of Los Angeles, a community center for young people in the Rampart District of Los Angeles which houses Longy’s Master of Arts in Teaching program. Leon Botstein, president of Bard College, Karen Zorn, president of Longy School of Music of Bard College, and Wayman Chin, dean of the Conservatory at Longy, will also have key roles in the ceremonies.

About Tony Brown
Tony Brown is the executive director of Heart of Los Angeles (HOLA), a community center for young people in the Rampart District of Los Angeles that houses Longy’s Master of Arts in Teaching program. He holds a B.A. in Communications Studies from Loyola Marymount University, an M.A. in Sports Management/Marketing from the University of Tennessee, and was a Graduate Fellow of the Stanford University Graduate School of Business Center for Social Innovation.

Tony has been awarded Distinguished Alumni awards from both Loyola Marymount University and the University of Tennessee, where he also delivered the 2014 commencement address. He has received the 2012 LA Business Journal Leadership Excellence Award, Bank of America’s Local Hero award, and was named to Town & Country’s Annual List of Top 50 Philanthropists in 2015. This year, Tony was appointed by the California Senate Rules Committee to the Advisory Committee on Before and After School Programs. He has been a speaker at international symposia on such topics as “Designing the Future of Education,” “Study of Music’s Effect on the Brain,” and “Building Community through Music Programs.”

In neighborhoods often overrun by poverty, crime and a feeling of hopelessness, HOLA invests in youth to build stronger and healthier communities. HOLA gives some of the city’s most vulnerable youth a chance to succeed in life. HOLA provides underserved youth with free, exceptional programs in academics, arts and athletics within a nurturing environment, empowering them to develop their potential, pursue their education, and strengthen their communities.

About Longy School of Music of Bard College
Longy School of Music of Bard College serves approximately 250 graduate and undergraduate students at its conservatory in Cambridge, MA and Master of Arts in Teaching (MAT) campus in Los Angeles, CA. Founded as Longy School of Music in 1915 by renowned oboist Georges Longy, Longy is a conservatory with a social imperative, providing for all students 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 society. Longy’s mission is to prepare musicians to make a difference in the world.

Press Inquiries
Interviews, Press Passes & High Resolution Images

**Dayla Arabella Santurri**
781-479-6951
Dayla@DaylaArabella.com

First Church in Cambridge
11 Garden Street
Cambridge, Ma

Longy School of Music of Bard College
Eliahu Sussman
Associate Director of Marketing & Communications
eliahu.sussman@longy.edu
617.831.1791