LA Phil President and CEO Deborah Borda talks leadership, innovation, and making an impact through the arts at Longy School of Music
Edward M. Pickman Concert Hall 11.16.15

Cambridge, Mass. | On November 16th Los Angeles Philharmonic President and CEO Deborah Borda presented “A Musician’s Journey to Leadership in the Arts” to an eager crowd at Longy School of Music of Bard College’s Edward M. Pickman Concert Hall. Moderated by Longy President Karen Zorn, the evening featured Borda recounting major changes in her career – from performer to orchestra manager to arts executive – as she strove to develop and realize her vision for an orchestra that is innovative, flexible, and impactful, while maintaining the highest standards of excellence. Her talk was followed by a question and answer session that included topics ranging from establishing a connection to communities that are not typically associated with the orchestral institutions to the ideal organizational structure for a presenting arts institution.

In 2012 the LA Phil and Longy created a bi-coastal partnership to form Take a Stand, an initiative to support social change through music in the United States. This objective is carried out by Longy in Los Angeles through an El Sistema-inspired Master of Arts in Teaching degree program housed on the campus of the LA Phil’s Youth Orchestra Los Angeles, and in Cambridge through Sistema Side by Side, an innovative orchestra that pairs students from local El Sistema-inspired music programs alongside their mentors from the Longy Conservatory Orchestra.

Longy President Karen Zorn remarked at the event: “Deborah has been a beacon for all of us in terms being a leader we can watch and learn from.”

On the LA Phil’s partnership with Longy, Borda noted, “Our partnership with Longy is a story of leadership and vision. Life is about these moments that are possible because we make them possible. Leadership is about showing up with a vision and selling it… We have a great partnership and it’s unique. When I look at what we’re doing together [a Master of Arts in Teaching music degree program based on the tenets of El Sistema, along with El Sistema symposia and teacher trainings], I think, ‘Why isn’t everyone doing this?’”

Among attending students and staff of Longy were a number of distinguished guests, including Kitty Dukakis, David Wallace, Peter Wender, Tom Burger and Andrée Robert, Mark Churchill, Suki de Bragança, and Yong-Hee Silver.

Longy’s Centennial 1915-2015
Longy’s illustrious faculty and talented students, alumni, and special guests from around the world will be featured throughout the year to celebrate the school’s centennial. Highlights include: world premieres performed by the Longy Conservatory Orchestra and Longy’s inspiring Sistema Side by Side Orchestra; the 3rd Annual Sistema Side By Side Celebration; the presentation of works from the winning entries from Longy’s call for 100-second compositions; specially curated chamber concerts; and the debut of the Longy in the City concert series that places students and faculty in popular and non-traditional venues throughout the Greater Boston area. The festivities will be punctuated by dynamic showcases celebrating important figures in Longy’s history, while also connecting progressive trends in music from the past 100 years to today’s ever-evolving fields of music performance and teaching artistry. For regular updates on the full list of centennial activities, visit longy.edu/Longy100.

About Longy School of Music of Bard College
Founded in 1915, Longy School of Music of Bard College is a degree-granting institution that 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. Through immersive project-based learning experiences, including its Teaching Artist and Pedagogy programs, and innovative, collaborative performance opportunities, Longy prepares musicians to make a difference in the world.

In 2012, Longy and Bard College, a leader in progressive education that shares Longy’s social mission, partnered with the Los Angeles Philharmonic to form Take a Stand, an initiative to support social change through music in the United States. This objective is carried out in Cambridge through Sistema Side by Side, a new kind of orchestra that pairs students from local El Sistema-inspired music programs alongside their mentors from the Longy Conservatory Orchestra. In addition, Longy students spend more than 1,800 hours in public schools, El Sistema-inspired music programs, assisted-living facilities, and other similar community centers throughout the Boston area. In Los Angeles,
the mission of social change is embedded in the MAT in Music curriculum, which, established in 2013, is the first accredited degree program based on the principles of El Sistema.