World-renowned singer and artist Frederica von Stade will take the stage on Friday, March 20 to perform with Longy’s Sistema Side by Side Orchestra at the Longy 2015 Sistema Side by Side Celebration, under the baton of the orchestra’s newly appointed Music Director Jorge Soto. The program will feature orchestral masterpieces Brahms Hungarian Dance No 5 and Dvořák’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 evening is the culmination of the 2014-2015 Sistema Side by Side series at Longy, which 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 Sistema 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.

Ms. von Stade will receive the Leonard Bernstein Lifetime Achievement Award for the Elevation of Music in Society. 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.

A celebratory dinner will follow the concert. Tickets to the event are available at 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 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 its 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.