Erik Holmgren joins Longy School of Music of Bard College as
Director of Teacher Education and Educational Initiatives
Will lead Master of Arts in Teaching (MAT) Program and El Sistema-inspired Education Initiatives

Cambridge, MA: Longy School of Music of Bard College is pleased to announce the appointment of Erik Holmgren as the institution’s Director of Teacher Education and Educational Initiatives. In his new role Holmgren will oversee Longy’s new Master of Arts in Teaching (MAT) Program in Los Angeles and spearhead the expansion of masters programs for aspiring musician-educators in other parts of the country. Holmgren, bringing extensive relationships with El Sistema leadership in the U.S. and abroad, will join Longy’s senior team for TAKE A STAND, the national El Sistema-inspired education initiative for social change created in partnership with Bard College and the Los Angeles Philharmonic.


Maintaining a diverse career as a performer, educator, and entrepreneur, Holmgren holds degrees in Saxophone Performance, Music Theory, and, most recently, an Ed.M. and Ed.D. in Music Education from Teachers College, Columbia University. He has performed with the Baltimore Symphony, recorded with the United States Military Academy Band, and is the Founding Editor of *Musical Perspectives*, the first academic journal of its kind focusing on performance studies in the United States. Before coming to Longy, Holmgren served on the faculty at Frostburg State University, Columbia University, and the New England Conservatory, where he led the Sistema Fellows Program.

Says Longy President Karen Zorn, “Erik brings a deep commitment to arts education and significant experience in grassroots organizing and program development to Longy.” Continues Zorn, “Over the past year we’ve worked closely with Erik and the New England Conservatory’s Sistema Fellows to strengthen ties within the growing El Sistema movement in the United States. As TAKE A STAND enters its second year, we look forward to building on our shared mission to bring social change through music education to our most underserved communities.”

Echoes New England Conservatory’s Dean and Executive Director of Preparatory and Continuing Education, Leslie Wu Foley, “We are grateful to Erik for the many contributions he has made to the development of the Sistema Fellows over the past two years, and are excited that he has an
opportunity to bring his experience and knowledge to a new audience. We also welcome these deepening ties with Longy School of Bard College, and we look forward to many years of partnership and collaboration.”

Holmgren succeeds Judith Hill Bose, Longy’s Associate Director of Teacher Education and Educational Initiatives. Hill Bose, instrumental in designing the new MAT program, will continue to lead Longy’s signature civic engagement program, Experiential Education. She will also focus on curriculum development for the school, working closely with Holmgren to identify and develop opportunities related to TAKE A STAND and El Sistema-inspired education.

**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 and school of Preparatory and Continuing Studies located in Harvard Square in Cambridge, Massachusetts. The school serves 225 undergraduate and graduate students from 37 states and 21 countries, and nearly 1,000 children and adults from the Greater Boston area. 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 Take A Stand**

The powerful message of El Sistema, Venezuela's revolutionary music education program, is spreading across the United States and igniting a movement that engages thousands of children and families in music making and community building. To support this pioneering field, the Longy School of Music of Bard College, Bard College, and the Los Angeles Philharmonic have formed TAKE A STAND, an innovative national initiative that supports social change through music. Together, we seek to change the face of music education in the United States.

**About the Master of Arts in Teaching**

With the belief that effective music teachers must themselves be active performers, the intensive 12-month Longy-Bard MAT integrates advanced studies in musical performance and education with the daily demands of the classroom. Designed for musicians with a desire to respond to today’s educational needs, and who aspire to participate in the growing El Sistema movement in the United States, the program leverages Bard’s experience in developing renowned academic and socially based teacher training programs with Longy’s role as a leader in progressive and rigorous training for performing and teaching musicians. Housed on the grounds of the Los Angeles Philharmonic’s premier El Sistema-inspired teaching site YOLA at Heart of Los Angeles (HOLA), the program offers candidates access to MAT faculty including Los Angeles Philharmonic musicians and leading scholars in music and education. MAT graduates are awarded California single-subject K-12 teacher credentialing in music. The average MAT class size is 12-15 students. ###