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Longy Hosts First Summer Camp for Boston-Area El Sistema Nucleos

Longy, Conservatory Lab Charter School, Josiah Quincy School, Bridge Boston, and Sistema Somerville will Shape Country’s Only Intensive Summer El Sistema Collective

Cambridge, MA: For the first time in the United States, children from El Sistema nucleos will come together for two weeks of immersive music-making and friendship as part of Longy School of Music of Bard College’s inaugural Youth Music Collaborative Summer Academy, scheduled from August 12 – 23 at the school (27 Garden St., Cambridge).

The Summer Academy, hosted by Longy and four Boston-area partner schools—Conservatory Lab Charter School, Josiah Quincy School, Bridge Boston, and Sistema Somerville—brings together over 50 children ages 7 – 11 for two weeks of intensive musical training. “The purpose of the Academy really very simple,” says program director Miriam Eckelhoefer. “We want to bring students into the fold of a larger community. We want to see friendships develop between kids from different parts of the city, and see the Academy as a long-term investment in building these relationships. We also see it as a long-term investment in the future of classical music. These students are the next generation of performers and audience members.”

The Academy workshops, all taught by program leaders from the participating schools, will focus on performance topics ranging from orchestra and choir, to dance, yoga, and improvisation. Inspired by El Sistema ‘seminarios’ (special intensive learning experiences common in Venezuela) students will live and breath music for 8 hours every day. They will share meals together and learn from each other through peer-to-peer learning.

“This notion of democratic music-making is really is a natural extension of Longy’s mission to prepare our students for life in the greater music world—to introduce them to schools and community centers where great music can often be a rarity. It’s no longer enough to be passionate about music, we need to give our graduates the skills to teach and the ambition to
reach new audiences,” says Longy’s president, Karen Zorn. “This kind of work, our summer academy, serves the community and our students”.

The Academy is the most recent installment of Longy programming designed to support El Sistema and teacher training, along with Take a Stand and the recently-launched Master of Arts in Teaching in music. The school has plans to broaden the series to include yearlong activities with nucleos from throughout the Boston area, as well as activities with the Longy Conservatory Orchestra and students.

The Academy concludes on August 23 with a finale concert and supper starting at 4:00 p.m. in Pickman Hall.

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**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 225 undergraduate and graduate students from over 35 states and 20 countries at our central Cambridge campus and Master of Arts in Teaching campus in Los Angeles, CA. 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 El Sistema**

El Sistema founder Dr. Jose 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 community El Sistema training centers, or nucleos. Since its inception over 35 years ago, the program has taught more than one million of Venezuela’s poorest children, changing students’ lives and transforming the communities around them. www.fesnojiv.gob.ve/en
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