OUR MISSION
Longy School of Music of Bard College is undergoing a process of growth and radical change that is unprecedented in its history, as it evolves from a free-standing conservatory and community music school, to a branch campus of Bard College, a top-ranked liberal arts college. This relationship has enabled Longy to expand its educational offerings and to access a wider community of musicians, scholars, philanthropists and world leaders than ever before. In the process, it is transitioning from an institution with a primarily local focus, to one that is impacting thousands of people by engaging with communities all across the United States in ways that manifest its mission of preparing musicians to make a difference in the world.

OUR PROGRAMS
Among top-ranked conservatories, Longy is unique. Like others, it provides exceptional artistic training for the next generation of performers. But, in addition to that, it prepares them for the more expansive roles of music advocate, scholar and educator – the roles of teaching artistry. Musicians who are going to make a difference in the world need preparation, training and inspiration to do so. Longy is the only conservatory in the country to require that every one of its students learn and lead as teaching artists. Through our core Teaching Artist Program, we nurture the pursuit of artistic excellence, and couple that with the desire and skills necessary to engage audiences of all ages and backgrounds. Did you know that in the academic year just finished, Longy’s conservatory students brought music to thousands of children in schools and community centers, and to hundreds of adults in senior centers, shelters, hospitals, and a range of public places that stretch far beyond the concert hall?
Longy’s nationwide Take A Stand initiative is another example of its commitment to music education with a social imperative. Founded on a partnership between Longy, the Los Angeles Philharmonic and Bard, Take A Stand aims to enhance the quality of teaching and learning in El Sistema-inspired programs (“nucleos”) in the United States. It is accomplishing this aim in two ways: through a new degree-granting program, and by organizing teacher professional development workshops to support the grass-roots growth and excellence of nucleos around the country.

Longy’s Master of Arts in Teaching (the MAT) in Music program started with a small pilot cohort last January and is about to admit its first full class this summer. Housed at the Heart of Los Angeles Community center, the site of one of the Los Angeles Philharmonic’s premier nucleos, the MAT provides its students with an onsite practicum - a rare opportunity to teach and learn in one place. Combining this learning lab approach with fieldwork in nucleos and public schools throughout the region, the MAT offers an innovative curriculum that is preparing a new generation of educators committed to the values of El Sistema. And plans are afoot to further expand the MAT to an East Coast location in 2014. Meanwhile, highly-successful, well attended regional workshops for teachers have been held over the past 18 months in Boston, New York, Philadelphia, Chicago, Los Angeles, and Durham, NC.

By leveraging the specialized capacity of each of its partners, Take A Stand is creating a force for change that is greater than the sum of its parts.

There has never been a more exciting time at Longy than right now. We’re building a revolution in music education. And we’re inviting you to join us.