

Longy School of Music's Sistema Side by Side students selected by Los Angeles Philharmonic to
participate in National Take a Stand Festival

Will perform with LA Philharmonic at Walt Disney Hall under world-renowned conductor Gustavo Dudamel

CAMBRIDGE, Mass. | This week the Los Angeles Philharmonic announced the names of nearly 100 young musicians who have been chosen to take part in the [National Take a Stand Festival](#) in Los Angeles July 15-22. Fourteen students from **Longy School of Music of Bard College's Sistema Side by Side** program and four alumni of the program will participate in the seven-day camp and festival. They will join other talented young musicians from across the country in this youth orchestra that will perform at Walt Disney Hall under **Gustavo Dudamel**, the world-renowned **Los Angeles Philharmonic music director**.

Longy's **Sistema Side by Side program** pairs students, aged 7 to 17, from El Sistema-inspired programs throughout Massachusetts with [Longy's Conservatory Orchestra](#) musicians and Longy faculty. Started in 2014, the program has grown to include over 150 students from more than a dozen programs in Massachusetts, called nucleos, such as the Boston String Academy, Kids 4 Harmony, Margarita Muñiz Academy and Conservatory Charter Lab School.

"The success of Longy's program has a great deal to do with the support these young students receive on a weekly basis from the area program directors and teachers from our partners, the nucleos," said Chris Schroeder, program manager for Sistema Side by Side. "The staff works tirelessly in rehearsals and preparing these students for their auditions and our Side by Side performances."

The National Take a Stand Festival is an unprecedented initiative to create a unified national platform for El Sistema-inspired and aligned programs throughout the United States. The three-year project began with a teacher training and pilot program devised by Longy in 2015, continued with two regional youth orchestra camps in 2016, and will culminate with this national youth orchestra camp featuring a final performance led by Dudamel. Students will have access to top artistic and educational resources, and experience some of the world's finest learning institutions and concert venues. In addition to programming, travel, lodging and food will be free for all the selected students.

In addition to rehearsals and other activities that build community and valuable life skills, the program presents unparalleled opportunities for children from diverse backgrounds and neighborhoods to perform in world-class venues, often accompanied by nationally renowned conductors and guest artists.

Each season concludes with a celebratory gala. Distinguished guest conductors and special guests have included **Gustavo Dudamel**, **Simón Bolívar String Quartet**, opera legend **Frederica von Stade**, the **Boston Cello Quartet** and **Vijay Gupta**.

The following Sistema Side by Side students have been selected to participate in the National Take a Stand festival:

Berkshire Children and Families' Kids 4 Harmony

Hannah Beckington 14, of Pittsfield

Geivens Dextra, 11, Pittsfield

Gerdrose Jean Louis 13, of Pittsfield

Leila Paredes, 13, of Pittsfield

Geivens Dextra, 11, Pittsfield

Boston String Academy

Samuel Benaim, 12

Simon Benaim, 14

Peter Cho, 11

Alphie Detemple, 12

Scarlet Falcon, 13

Zhou Rui Jiang, 12

Zhou Yan Jiang 13

Erick Liang, 11

Clarice Mullady, 13

Darren Seto, 11

Eric Yu, 12

Conservatory Lab Charter School

Arianna Rodriguez, 14, of Mattapan

Margarita Muñiz Academy

Josmary Peres, 17, of Boston

Youth and Family Enrichment Services

Milca Pierre, 15, of Hyde Park

About Longy School of Music of Bard College

Longy School of Music of Bard College is a conservatory whose mission is to prepare musicians to make a difference in the world. World-class faculty and an innovative curriculum encourage students to push their artistic presentation beyond the proscenium model. Longy promotes musical understanding and technical mastery, and inspires imagination and inquiry into the musician's role in the world. Longy serves graduate and undergraduate students from over 35 states and 16 countries between its Cambridge and Los Angeles campuses, with the latter housing the El Sistema-inspired Master of Arts in Teaching (MAT) program.

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National Take a Stand

Festival

July 15-22