

## Where Music Connects Us All

**NURTURING TALENT, PLAYING WITH PASSION, INSPIRING WITH PURPOSE.**



## Alhambra Orchestra Newsletter Summer 2025

### UPCOMING CONCERTS

▶ **SEPTEMBER 28** | Sunday | 7:30 PM

#### HISPANIC HERITAGE CELEBRATION

Experience the vibrant rhythms and rich melodies that promise an unforgettable evening of musical enchantment and cultural celebration.

FIU Wertheim Performing Arts Center  
10910 SW 17th Street, Miami 33199  
Tickets \$10 adults/\$5 seniors, students

▶ **OCTOBER 24** | Friday | 7:00 PM & 8:15 PM

#### SPOOKY SYMPHONY

Delight in a bewitching evening of eerie classics and iconic movie themes that are sure to enchant young audiences and families alike. From chilling melodies to thrilling crescendos, let the music transport you to a realm of Halloween magic and mystery.

Dennis C. Moss Cultural Arts Center  
10950 SW 211 St., Cutler Bay 33189  
Free

▶ **DECEMBER 6** | Saturday | 7:00 PM & 8:00 PM

#### HOLIDAY POPS

Celebrate the diversity of the holiday season with a spectacular showcase of multicultural winter holiday favorites. From spirited jazz renditions to heartwarming orchestral arrangements, let the music of the holidays fill your soul with warmth and cheer.

Pinecrest Gardens  
11000 SW 57th Avenue, Pinecrest 33156  
Free with Gardens admission

Dear AO Musicians,

Ancient Greek physician Hippocrates is credited with this thought, "Ars Longa, Vita Brevis" meaning "Art is long, life is short." It refers to the enduring nature of art, ideas and knowledge. The creations of humans can have a lasting impact, long outlasting their creator's life span. As musicians, we are privileged to carry great music from the past into the future. Daniel Andai, our Artistic Director and Conductor, guides us down a path that ensures life enrichment through music and we can always count on him for a few good laughs along the way. Please read his letter on the next page. It sets the tone for the upcoming season as we join in a collective commitment to growing the AO.

Speaking of long lasting impacts, we are grateful that **Leo Walz** founded this orchestra 36 years ago. Ever since then, our members have found a musical home in AO, and a family of sorts in a big city. Friendships have blossomed among great music. Take moments this season to get to know the amazing people around you. Yes, we need to have a party!

There are several core musician members who have committed their time to the AO for many years. They have been doing their time/brain consuming pro bono job, aka **\*\*\*\*volunteer job\*\*\*\***, for more than a decade, probably closer to two decades! Co-Executive Director **Helen Hauser** is a stealth strategic planner, idea generator, grant writer, juggler, and much more. She is a calm version of the Energizer Bunny!(!) Our VP/Personnel Manager **Joe Yeargin** and Treasurer **Janet Copeland** don't stop until their work is done, which is almost never! Remember to thank them! Often!



VP/Personnel Manager **Joe Yeargin**



Co-Executive Director **Helen Hauser**



Treasurer **Janet Copeland**

**Steffen Zeichner**, our much appreciated Concertmaster, and our principals and mentors participate in helping each other. The person next to you may pass on a fingering or a kind greeting each week. Maybe you make an extra donation to the orchestra, arrive really early to move chairs (thanks **Damien Llevada!**), give someone a ride or encourage someone. Your strong playing may inspire someone. Everyone is an important part of this great community service project.

We are fortunate to spend many hours playing and performing together. We depend on each other to make AO successful. Thank you and your family for your commitment. Enjoy this privilege we share to learn and perform great music. Our collective efforts lift up our members and our audience.

Excited for another great season with you!

Warmly,  
**August Neal**, President

## MESSAGE FROM OUR ARTISTIC, CO-EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, CONDUCTOR



Please accept my heartfelt thanks and appreciation to you for a wonderful season filled with beautiful music and growth. As Artistic Director and Co-Executive Director, I take pride in leading you artistically, my dear musicians, while ensuring AO's legacy alongside a tireless group of committed individuals who ensure we have a harmonious musical home in AO.

This coming 25.26 season will be themed "COMMITMENT." Themes have helped AO overcome challenges through mission and vision. As a result, AO has experienced an increase in quality performances and video/audio content, musician membership, audience sizes, community alliances, and fundraising strategies, to name a few. In furthering COMMITMENT to AO, we are rebranding the orchestra, increasing programming, welcoming new members, and updating the website for a more audience centric experience.

AO is at a crossroad of growth, and I ask for you to COMMIT to growing AO. COMMIT to accountability for self and others, COMMIT to your best efforts, COMMIT to the music making process, COMMIT to your preparedness, and COMMIT to attendance.

In season 25.26, I will continue implementing new chamber music style sectionals and workshop the orchestra by reviewing past performances and finding ways to improve our sound and ensemble practices. Growth isn't easy, and it isn't linear either, so trust the process and embrace what's to come so that we do this together.

AO is a village, and we're all part of its success. I look forward to making music with you very soon!

Musically yours,

*Daniel Andai*

*Artistic Director, Principal Conductor Co-Executive Director*



## OUR PLANS FOR CONTINUED EXCELLENCE & SUCCESS

Welcome back! We hope you had a great summer. Your hardworking board of member musicians, elected by you, performs countless tasks to manage this organization, some of which are listed below with their names. A vital function of the Board is planning for the orchestra to thrive into the future. Dani Andai has proposed exciting ideas for our 36th season performances, detailed below in this newsletter. Also, we will be offering workshops for our players, adding a composition category to our annual youth competition, and doing another amazing collaboration with the Frost Museum of Science.

But as you probably know, this will be a very challenging year financially for all performing arts organizations, with government funding cut way back and private sources exercising caution in their expenditures. We don't expect enough grant support to make all our events free, so we have to sell tickets to the majority of our performances, as we did for our June opera concert, though the prices will continue to be very low so that we can reach seniors, families with children, and other underserved populations. Member musicians will be asked to help recruit ticket buyers, and to assist our fundraising committee in other projects they will devise. We are also raising the member dues to \$200, from \$160. These measures, which we have been reluctant to implement in prior years, have now become necessary to assure that we can continue the dynamic progress the Alhambra Orchestra has enjoyed in the last decade. Your assistance is much appreciated. And, of course, please feel free to make suggestions that will help us raise more operating capital. An email to [music@AlhambraOrchestra.org](mailto:music@AlhambraOrchestra.org) will be seen by all the officers, and shared with the board. Or contact any of us directly with your ideas.



**IT'S REHEARSAL TIME: Unitarian Universalist Congregation, 7701 SW 76<sup>th</sup> Ave, Miami, FL 33143. BRING YOUR MUSIC STAND.**

The Alhambra Orchestra will continue to rehearse at the UU Congregation. **First rehearsal: Wednesday, Aug. 20.**

This is a big space, air conditioned, with plenty of parking. We are very grateful to the clergy, the board and congregation for agreeing to host our rehearsals. Our rehearsals will still be on Wednesday nights at 7:30. We'll probably end at 10, with a break in the middle.

**Early arrivals and room setup helpers are highly encouraged.**

# REPORT ON 2024-2025 SEASON

## WOW! LOOK WHAT WE ACCOMPLISHED IN OUR 2024-25 SEASON

The orchestra began rehearsals on August 21st

**September 28 and 29- “Hispanic Heritage Celebration”** – Coral Gables Sanctuary of the Arts, 410 Andalusia Avenue, Coral Gables 33134 - 7:30 pm on Saturday and 3 pm on Sunday. Tickets \$10 adults and \$5 for seniors and students. In honor of Hispanic Heritage Month, the orchestra presented two performances of a lively program featuring several outstanding local soloists, as well as Lecuona’s beloved Andalusia Suite and Siboney, Tarrega’s Recuerdos de la Alhambra, and a variety of popular Spanish songs arranged for orchestra. Accompanied by a small orchestra, guitarist Koh Kazama performed a concerto by Villa-Lobos, soprano Nathalie Avila presented two Spanish art songs, flautist Carol Naveira-Nicholson performed Ars Antigua by Rodrigo, and violinists Steffen Zeichner and Daniel Andai presented Sarasate’s Navarra, a thrilling virtuoso piece for two violins. We had an enthusiastic capacity audience each time, totalling 650, including a group of student dancers based at the venue.

**October 25, 2024 – “Spooky Symphony”** – Dennis C. Moss Cultural Arts Center, 10950 SW 111 Street, Palmetto Bay 33189 --- 7 pm and 8:30 pm (two shows). Free admission. Our concert was part of the Halloween celebration at the Moss Center which also included dance performances, a haunted house, candy giveaways, and other family activities. We did two kid-friendly side-by-side performances with Greater Miami Youth Symphony, with the combined 110-piece orchestra playing movie themes and supernatural-themed classical pieces including “The Hall of the Mountain King” by Grieg, “Perfect Potions” by our own Javier Albornoz, and themes from the movie franchises Mission Impossible, Harry Potter, Spiderman, and 007. The conductors and most of the performers wore costumes. Videos coordinated with the music were created by The Children’s Trust, and shown behind the orchestras. Even the emcees were dressed as elves and sprites. Both audiences cheered and clapped for the performers. We estimate that youngsters under 18 made up about 50% of the total concert attendance of 1469. The Moss Center’s event as a whole drew 3200 persons.

**December 12, 2024—“Holiday Serenade”** -- Miami Cancer Center, 8900 N. Kendall Drive, Miami 33176—11 am, Free. The orchestra’s in-house string quartet performed in the hospital lobby for staff and patients, playing light classical and holiday tunes, beginning late morning and going into the lunch hour. About 110 listeners passed through the area and stayed as long as they could in their busy day, to enjoy the music. There was no charge to the hospital for our holiday cheer.

**December 15, 2024 – “Holiday Pops”** – Pinecrest Gardens, 11100 SW 57th Avenue, Pinecrest 33156 – 6:30 pm. Free admission. The orchestra joined the annual “Nights of Lights” festival at gaily decorated Pinecrest Gardens, where it opened the evening activities with a lively mixture of traditional favorites such as “Sleigh Ride,” excerpts from “Nutcracker,” “Festive Sounds of Hanukkah,” “Christmas Festival Overture,” and “Greensleeves,” livened up with two rock-infused Trans-Siberian Orchestra arrangements. A wildly enthusiastic family audience totaling 380 cheered, clapped and sang along. (There was an admission charge for the Gardens but no additional charge to attend the concert.)

**January 3-5, 2025 - 21st Annual Chamber Music Workshop**, University of Miami Frost School of Music, 5500 San Amaro Drive, Coral Gables 33146. Thirty-three musicians spent an intensive weekend rehearsing

their assigned pieces while being tutored by the illustrious faculty of the Frost School of Music, and they gave a public recital on Sunday afternoon attended by 105 persons. Fifteen of the participants were high school or college students, and ten were our own members. They learned rehearsal and performance techniques, how to analyze their parts, how to lead an ensemble, and much more.

**February 1, 2025 – “South Florida’s Got Talent”** – FIU Wertheim Auditorium, 10910 SW 17th Street, Miami 33199—7:30pm, Free admission. The top three winners from the orchestra’s 21st annual concerto competition for South Florida middle and high-school students were each given solo spots at a formal concert with full orchestra accompaniment. One of the works was a rarely heard piano concerto by Emilie Mayer, a contemporary of Beethoven, and the others were concerti by Walton and by Vieuxtemps. In addition to solos spotlighting these amazingly talented teens, the audience was treated to short orchestral works by Dvorak and Wagner. A very enthusiastic, near-capacity audience of 495 gave standing ovations to each of the soloists and to the orchestra.

**March 16, 2025 – “From Folk to Classical”** – Coral Gables Congregational Church, 3010 DeSoto Blvd., Coral Gables, FL 33134—7:30pm, Free Admission. Hosted by Dr. Leo Walz, small ensembles of wind, brass and string players from the orchestra treated attendees to lively and tuneful folk and folk-inspired pieces from Russia, Rumania, England, Ireland, Spain, and America, including pieces by Aaron Copland, Jay Ungar and Mark O’Connor, Bela Bartok, Percy Grainger, and more, concluding with the haunting “Ashokan Farewell.” A capacity audience of 405 attended the performance.

**May 3, 2025 – “Late Romantic Fireworks,”** the regular season finale--FIU Wertheim Auditorium, 10910 SW 17th Street, Miami 33199—7:30pm, Free admission. Young international cello soloist Thomas Mesa, a Miami-Dade Schools alum who has won the Sphinx Prize, an Avery Fisher Career Grant, and a recent appointment to the Manhattan School of Music faculty, returned to his hometown for a stellar rendition of Dvorak’s stirring Cello Concerto with the orchestra. The program began with a brief appearance by the beginning strings ensemble from Whispering Pines Elementary, with whom the orchestra has been partnering, to demonstrate the importance of music education in our schools. The concert concluded with a rousing performance of Tchaikovsky’s 1812 Overture, complete with stage-prop cannons that flashed on cue. An overflow crowd of 600 cheered and clapped extensively, demanding multiple curtain calls for our soloist Mr. Mesa and conductor Daniel Andai.

**June 15, 2025 – “Opera Showcase”**—Miracle Theatre, 280 Miracle Mile, Coral Gables 33134—3 pm, Tickets \$5 for seniors and students, \$10 for adults. This afternoon event attracted 395 delighted audience members to hear ten featured singers from the internationally known Manny Perez studio present famous opera arias with full orchestral accompaniment. 25 were Golden Ticket invitees, and there were many other seniors and students who took advantage of the \$5 ticket price. All of the arias drew extensive applause, and the finale “Nessun Dorma” had to be repeated, as the attendees demanded an encore.

# REPERTOIRE SELECTED FOR 2025-26

Subject to slight changes

## HISPANIC HERITAGE CELEBRATION

Symphony in D – Arriaga

Asturias - Albeniz—for orchestra, arr. Lopez

“De Espana Vengo,” from the zarzuela El Nino Judio, by Pablo Luna w/ soprano

“No puede ser” from the zarzuela La Tabernera del Puerto, by Pablo

Sorozábal w/tenor

Granada – Agustin Lara, w/ tenor

Danzon No. 2 – Marquez

## SPOOKY SYMPHONY (two 50 minute programs)

“Over the Rainbow” from Wizard of Oz – Arlen, arr. Lewis,

Selections from Phantom of the Opera – Lloyd Webber arr. Custer

Wonder Woman – Gregson-Williams, arr. Lopez

This is Halloween – Elfman arr. Harnsberger

Addams Family theme - Mizzy

Godzilla theme – Desplat, arr. Story

“X-men: Apocalypse End Titles” – Ottman, arr. Martinez

Beetlejuice, main theme Elfman, arr. Bonado

## HOLIDAY POPS (two 30 minute programs)

Wizards in Winter – Trans Siberian Orchestra

Festive Sounds of Hanukkah, arr. Bill Holcombe

Sleigh Ride – Leroy Anderson

Christmas Eve/Sarajevo- Trans Siberian Orchestra

Feliz Navidad—Jose Feliciano arr. Riley

Christmas Festival Overture – Leroy Anderson

## SOUTH FLORIDA'S GOT TALENT

Marriage of Figaro Overture – Mozart

3rd place winner

2nd place winner

Original piece by winner of composition contest

1st place winner

## SPRING SERENADE CHAMBER CONCERT

Appalachian Spring Suite (Ballet for Martha– 13 players) – Copland

Sinfonia X for Strings – Mendelssohn

Double Concerto for Violin and Piano (with string accompaniment) – Mendelssohn with Daniel Andai, violin and Ciro Fodere, piano

Stampede – Steven Bryant (winds)

(Or if not enough wind volunteers to do the Stampede –

Serenade for Strings – Elgar)

## WORLD OF MUSIC - 36TH SEASON FINALE

Concerto for Four Horns and Orchestra – Hubler

Violin concerto #4-Mozart , Misha Vitenson violin soloist

Symphony no. 5- Beethoven

## WATER, WATER EVERYWHERE (summer family concert with Museum of Science)

Repertoire still being determined as we go to press – classical and movie compositions featuring oceans and rivers.



## HIGHLIGHTS OF OUR 2024-25 SEASON



# PERFORMANCE AND REHEARSAL SCHEDULE



Please remember that this schedule reflects everything we know about as of this writing. But sometimes there is an unforeseen conflict. There can also be hurricanes or other sorts of disasters. Always read your email from the orchestra so that you know about any changes we have to make. Also check the schedule on our website, which will be kept up to date.

## 2025

Wed. Aug. 20 Rehearsal at UUCM  
Wed. Aug. 27 Rehearsal at UUCM  
Wed. Sept. 3 Rehearsal at UUCM  
Wed. Sept. 10 Rehearsal at UUCM  
Wed. Sept. 17 Rehearsal at UUCM  
Wed. Sept. 24 Rehearsal at UUCM

### HISPANIC HERITAGE CONCERT

FIU. Sunday, September 28. Tickets \$10 adults/\$5 seniors, students  
Wed Oct 1 – NO REHEARSAL – Yom Kippur  
Wed, Oct. 8 Rehearsal at UUCM  
Wed, Oct. 15 Rehearsal at UUCM  
Sun. Oct 19 Joint rehearsal with GMYS at U OF M, 2-5 pm  
Wed, Oct. 22 Rehearsal at UUCM  
Thurs., Oct. 23, DRESS REHEARSAL AT MOSS CTR., BEGINS 7 PM

### SPOOKY SYMPHONY WITH GMYS

MOSS CENTER: Fri. Oct. 24, Two 50-minute performances, 7 PM AND 8:15 PM, Free.  
Wed, Oct. 29 Rehearsal at UUCM  
Wed, Nov. 5 Rehearsal at UUCM  
Wed, Nov. 12 Rehearsal at UUCM  
Wed, Nov. 19 Rehearsal at UUCM  
Wed, Nov. 26 NO REHEARSAL– Thanksgiving Wed, Dec. 3 Rehearsal at UUCM

### HOLIDAY POPS

PINECREST GARDENS: Sat Dec 6 – Two 30-minute performances, 7 pm and 8 pm, Free with Gardens admission.  
Wed. Dec. 10 Rehearsal at UUCM  
Wed. Dec. 17 Rehearsal at UUCM  
Wed. Dec. 24 NO REHEARSAL winter break  
Wed. Dec. 31 NO REHEARSAL winter break

## 2026

Wed. Jan. 7 Rehearsal at UUCM  
Wed. Jan. 14 Rehearsal at UUCM w/ soloists  
Wed. Jan. 21 Rehearsal at UUCM w/ soloists

### SOUTH FLORIDA'S GOT TALENT

FIU: Sun. Jan. 25, 7:30 pm, Tickets \$10 adults/\$5 seniors, students  
Wed. Jan. 28 Rehearsal at UUCM  
Wed. Feb. 4 Rehearsal at UUCM  
Wed. Feb. 11 Rehearsal at UUCM  
Wed. Feb. 18 Rehearsal at UUCM  
Wed. Feb. 25 Rehearsal at UUCM

### SPRING SERENADE (Chamber concert)

CORAL GABLES CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH: Sun. Mar. 1, 7:30 pm, Free  
Wed. Mar. 4 Rehearsal at UUCM  
Wed. March 11 Rehearsal at UUCM  
Wed. March 18 Rehearsal at UUCM  
Wed. March 25 Rehearsal at UUCM  
NO REHEARSAL APRIL 1 (Passover)  
Wed. Apr. 8 Rehearsal at UUCM  
Wed. Apr. 15 Rehearsal at UUCM  
Wed. Apr. 22 Rehearsal at UUCM

### WORLD OF MUSIC (Season finale)

FIU: Sun. Apr. 26, 7:30pm, Tickets \$10 adults/\$5 seniors, students  
Wed. May 6 Rehearsal at UUCM  
Wed. May 13 Rehearsal at UUCM  
Wed. May 20 Rehearsal at UUCM  
Wed. May 27 Rehearsal at UUCM  
Wed., June 3 Rehearsal at UUCM

### WATER, WATER EVERYWHERE (summer family multimedia concert)

FIU: Sun. June 7, 3pm -- with Frost Science Museum doing images, \$5/10

## SIMPLE WAYS TO HELP BUILD ENGAGEMENT & MOMENTUM

We are deeply grateful to have you as part of the Alhambra Orchestra family. Your talent brings our music to life — and your voice can help carry our mission even further into the community. Every interaction helps build a stronger connection between the orchestra and the vibrant community we serve. If you're looking for simple and meaningful ways to help elevate our brand and expand our reach, here are a few great ways to get involved:

### 1. Add Us to Your Bio:

Include the Alhambra Orchestra in your social media bios or professional websites — a small but powerful gesture that builds visibility.

### 2. Recommend Us to Local Schools & Organizations:

Suggest our concerts and outreach to music teachers, student groups, community centers, or churches.

### 3. Leave a Review:

Leave a positive review or testimonial on our Facebook page or Google listing to help build credibility and online presence.

### 4. Share Your Story:

Tell your followers why you're proud to be part of the orchestra — what it means to you personally or what makes it special.

### 5. Invite Someone New to Each Concert:

Challenge yourself to bring a new friend, neighbor, or colleague to each concert and introduce them to the music.

### 6. Record a Short Video Message:

Record a 30-second video on your phone sharing excitement for an upcoming performance or your love for orchestral music — we can share it!

### 7. Nominate Us for Community Calendars:

Submit our events to free listings like local media calendars, event sites, bulletin boards, or community groups.

### 8. Volunteer or Join a Committee:

Offer time or expertise to help with outreach, fundraising, or event greeting — even small tasks go a long way.

Also, be sure to follow us on social media, engage with our content, like, comment, and share posts and stories to help amplify our message. Thank you for being an essential part of this journey!

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**THANK YOU FOR MAKING US SHINE AND CARRY ON OUR MISSION!**

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## HISTORICAL NOTES



We are thrilled to have so many new members who joined us this year. Your enthusiasm helps us continue to grow and improve. Whether you are a new

member or not, we want everyone to understand the history and purpose of what we do. We are a true community orchestra, which means that our musicians are local residents, we feature local soloists, and we seek to serve our community through music. In some small towns, a community orchestra is the only presenter of live classical concerts. In large cities like ours, it complements the offerings of permanent and touring professional orchestras. In the populous, sprawling Miami-Dade metropolitan area it is difficult, and often cost-prohibitive, for many of our citizens to experience the excellent classical music performances that the city offers, but there is a huge demand for accessible concerts, especially when so many of our fellow citizens are struggling economically. That's our niche. We particularly seek to reach seniors, families with children, and underserved populations, and to encourage music education for people of all ages.

We are proud of projects such as our annual concerto competition for youth, our annual chamber music workshop for players of all ages, our yearly Halloween family concert "Spooky Symphony," our partnership with Whispering Pines Elementary School, and our annual chamber music concert. We serve adult musicians by providing mentoring and performance experience for our members. The orchestra

presents major symphonies, concertos with eminent local soloists, pops concerts, chamber performances, concerts with vocalists, and children's concerts. We have an informal series of hospital visits and community center visits by small ensembles, as well. We are a self-governing, independent, musician-run organization. Most of our management is done by volunteers, and all but a few of the performers are volunteers, so The Alhambra Orchestra can do all these projects on a budget that is a small fraction of what other orchestras need. This allows us to offer a full season of free or minimal-price concerts.

The orchestra was founded in 1990 by Dr. Leo Walz, then a graduate student, who did all the administration as well as conducting for the next several years. He incorporated it as a nonprofit in 1995, under the name "Alhambra Music, Inc." "Alhambra" was chosen because the orchestra's first home was in a now-demolished church on Alhambra Circle in Coral Gables. Since 2000, the Alhambra Orchestra has been managed by an elected board of member musicians. It has formed alliances and friendships with other arts organizations, venues, and educational institutions as, over the years, it became an important part of the cultural community. It serves over 5500 audience members per year. The orchestra's "can-do" attitude is exemplified by projects like our innovative use of videos and small-ensemble programs during COVID surges, and our concerts with unusual themes. We continue to work on improving our own ensemble while providing memorable cultural experiences to our fellow community members.

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## WHO'S IN CHARGE OF THIS ORCHESTRA, ANYHOW?

Short answer—the musicians are in charge! When the Alhambra Orchestra began in 1990, founder Dr. Leo Walz managed everything, as well as conducting. After a few seasons, Dr. Walz incorporated the entity as the non-profit Alhambra Music, Inc., in 1995, so that it became eligible for government grants and could request tax deductible donations.

In 2000, governance was assumed by an elected board of directors, who were all member musicians. Until recently, we had a compensated Artistic Director but otherwise, all-volunteer management, with Helen Hauser as a volunteer Executive Director. As befits a mature organization of our size, we are slowly transitioning away from all-volunteer management, but still using musicians to do our administrative jobs. Board members and other volunteers still handle most of the behind-the-scenes tasks needed to present a full season of high-quality concerts.

### MANAGEMENT CONTACTS

We communicate with our member musicians by email and sometimes by phone, so please be sure that Joe Yeargin and August Neal have your accurate contact information, and that our general email address [music@alhambraorchestra.org](mailto:music@alhambraorchestra.org) is in your contact list so important info doesn't end up in Spam. This may become particularly important during hurricane season. We also post our schedule on our website. Additionally, you should obtain contact information for your section leader in case you have to be absent unexpectedly, or have some other question.

Any schedule changes, such as a cancellation for storm warnings, will be sent by email and posted on the website. You can also contact an officer or board member, listed below.

### MEET THE LEADERSHIP & YOUR BOARD OF DIRECTORS

**Daniel Andai**, Artistic Director, Co-Executive Director  
[dandai@alhambraorchestra.org](mailto:dandai@alhambraorchestra.org)

**Helen Hauser**, Co-Executive Director, grantwriter [hhauser@alhambraorchestra.org](mailto:hhauser@alhambraorchestra.org)

**August Neal**, Board President [aneal@alhambraorchestra.org](mailto:aneal@alhambraorchestra.org)

**Joe Yeargin**, Vice President, personnel manager [Jyeargin40@gmail.com](mailto:Jyeargin40@gmail.com)

**Janet Copeland**, Treasurer [treasurer@alhambraorchestra.org](mailto:treasurer@alhambraorchestra.org)

**Sophia Camejo**, Board Member, Concerto Competition Committee  
[scamejo912@gmail.com](mailto:scamejo912@gmail.com)

**Joy Castro**, Board Member, Fundraising Committee [jmcastro21@gmail.com](mailto:jmcastro21@gmail.com)

**Kelvin Clavelo**, Board Member, Fundraising and Concerto Competition Committee  
[kclavelo@yahoo.com](mailto:kclavelo@yahoo.com)

**Marjorie Fontalvo-Cabarcas**, Board Member, Fundraising Committee  
[marjie2005@gmail.com](mailto:marjie2005@gmail.com)

**Matt Leone**, Board Member, Videographer [leonecreative@mac.com](mailto:leonecreative@mac.com)

**Carol Naveira-Nicholson**, Board Member, Librarian [carol2207@aol.com](mailto:carol2207@aol.com)

**Ruth Smith**, Board Member, Workshop Committee [ruthruth@alumni.unc.edu](mailto:ruthruth@alumni.unc.edu)

**Barbara Tria**, Board Member, Venue Liaison, Stage Manager  
[facilities@alhambraorchestra.org](mailto:facilities@alhambraorchestra.org)

**Pamela Yen**, Board Member, Social Director, Costume Designer  
[pamelayen82@gmail.com](mailto:pamelayen82@gmail.com)

## BE SURE TO FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL MEDIA!

Our website, [AlhambraOrchestra.org](http://AlhambraOrchestra.org), will have our schedule and general information about the orchestra. We also have an orchestra email, [music@AlhambraOrchestra.org](mailto:music@AlhambraOrchestra.org), and our voicemail, (305) 668-9260, will eventually be answered but they are not monitored 24/7.

Please be sure to visit our social media channels and subscribe to them.

 [facebook.com/Alhambra-Orchestra](https://facebook.com/Alhambra-Orchestra)

 [instagram.com/alhambraorchestra](https://instagram.com/alhambraorchestra)

 [linkedin.com/organization-quest/company/alhambra-orchestra](https://linkedin.com/organization-quest/company/alhambra-orchestra)

 [youtube.com/c/AlhambraOrchestraMiami](https://youtube.com/c/AlhambraOrchestraMiami)



## OUR SPECIAL MUSICAL PROJECTS

This will be the 22nd year for our annual Ray Millette Memorial Concerto Competition. It began after we held a memorial ceremony for one of our original members, and to our surprise, people donated money at the event. We decided to use the funds as seed money to begin a concerto competition for local middle school and high school students from four Southeast Florida counties. The top three winners get cash prizes and the opportunity to solo with our orchestra. Over the years, our competition has attracted a plethora of truly outstanding young musicians who have gone on to prestigious college and conservatory programs. One of our early successes is cellist Thomas Mesa, who graduated from Juilliard, won the Sphinx Competition, and now has a stellar career as soloist and recitalist. We were proud to present him as a soloist for our 2025 season finale. The initial round of the competition is online—students post their recordings and we choose three local music educators to judge them. The top few get invited to perform live with their accompanists before three new judges, to identify the three contestants who will be our soloists. This year we are adding a composition category, with the details still being worked out. There will be a cash prize and a performance of the winner's work at our South Florida's Got Talent concert. Invitations will go to local teachers, music schools, college preparatory programs, former competitors, and (for the composition category) university programs. Kelvin Clavelo and Sophia Camejo will be running the competition this year, so contact them if you would like to help. We will need people at the final round to welcome the competitors, greet their families, and usher them in and out of warmup rooms.

This will also be the 22nd year for our annual "Be Better with Bergonzi" chamber music workshop. It began after a popular adult music workshop in St. Petersburg discontinued its Florida programs, and local musicians were disappointed that there were no other chamber workshops within hundreds of miles. Alhambra Orchestra members Jody Atwood, Bob Gavilo and Helen Hauser asked the University of Miami's in-house string quartet whether they would be interested in coaching amateurs, and got an enthusiastic response. The original Bergonzi Quartet no longer performs together, but three of the original members have continued coaching our workshop. We take over the Frost School of Music for a January weekend (UM students are on winter break then) with 6-10 ensembles of amateurs and students. Fees are quite modest because UM donates the classroom space, and there are some scholarships available for adults. We study hard with our coaches, and perform a recital on Sunday afternoon. A grant from Associated Chamber Music Players allows us to waive the fees for several students from Greater Miami Youth Symphony and other music programs. Participants are mostly strings, but pianists and wind players can join in. This year the dates are January 2, 3, and 4, 2026. Contact Ruth Smith or Helen Hauser if you are interested.

## OUR SPONSORS DON'T COVER ALL OUR BILLS!



Like any other performing group, we need to pay for rehearsal and performance venue rental; insurance; music copyright and rental fees; publicity costs (yes, even for a free or nearly-free concert, you have to do publicity in order to get audiences); artist compensation for our section leaders, artistic director, soloists, and workshop coaches; and all the incidental expense of running a nonprofit business.

This amounts to about \$120,000 in cash expenses for each of our recent, very active performing seasons. We have been funded by government grants, several local foundations, and individual donations. But as mentioned above, in the current climate, these sources are expected to yield significantly less for our 2025/26 season. We have to adapt to a new reality.

We have always asked our member musicians to help cover the operating costs by paying a modest fee for their membership. **This year our dues will be \$200** per year. But those who can afford to do so are asked to donate a sum above these very minimal dues. The basic dues amount works out to about \$5 for each time

you come to enjoy the benefit of working with our terrific conductor and congenial musicians. If possible, please pay your dues at the time of the first rehearsal so we can start the year with some funding to carry us until grant money comes in. You can give checks or cash to our treasurer, Janet Copeland, and you can pay by Venmo, @Alhambra- Orchestra, or use Zelle with email: [treasurer@alhambraorchestra.org](mailto:treasurer@alhambraorchestra.org) There's a Paypal button on our website, [alhambraorchestra.org](http://alhambraorchestra.org), but Paypal charges a service fee, so the other methods are preferred. We are a 501(c)(3) tax exempt organization so if you donate above your dues, we can give you a receipt for your donations that will be handy at tax time. Fulltime students are exempt from paying dues. Anyone who has difficulty paying \$200 is welcome to have a confidential discussion with our treasurer, Janet Copeland, who can give you a break or arrange convenient installments. Thank you for your support!

It has long been our preference to give free concerts, but we need large venues and those cost a significant sum, so we will have to charge a small admission fee for the majority of our events. This coming season, our four concerts at FIU will be ticketed at \$5 for students and seniors, \$10 for adults. Two of our 24/25 concerts had this pricing, and we still got good attendance, while getting help in covering our rental. We can still do free admission for Spooky Symphony and our chamber concert; and at our Pinecrest Gardens event the concert is included in the Gardens admission. We will be using Eventbrite.com to sell the tickets, and we will be asking our members to encourage their fans to purchase them. Of course, if you can recommend a donor or a sponsor, or you have a great idea for raising funds, contact your officers and board.

### IT'S TIME: PLEASE PAY YOUR \$200 DUES

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Zelle with email: [treasurer@alhambraorchestra.org](mailto:treasurer@alhambraorchestra.org)

Check or Mail: 5794 SW 40th Street, PMB 189 Miami, FL 33155



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The Alhambra Orchestra's season is made possible with the support of the Miami-Dade County Department of Cultural Affairs, the Cultural Affairs Council, the Mayor and the Miami-Dade Board of County Commissioners.



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For Your Continued Support

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