

A Thriving, Inclusive & Culturally Relevant Organization

PROVIDING THE FREEDOM TO EXPRESS, COLLABORATE & CREATE JOYFUL MUSIC!



ENRICHING OUR COMMUNITY THROUGH EXCELLENCE IN MUSIC



Alhambra Orchestra Newsletter • Summer 2023

UPCOMING CONCERTS

▶ **SEPTEMBER 23** | Saturday | 7:30 PM

HISPANIC HERITAGE CELEBRATION

Jointly presented with MDCA, this free season opener is a lively gift to the public featuring Spanish and Spanish-influenced favorites. Joining the orchestra will be special guest performers Doral Symphony Orchestra with singers Manuel Arvelaiz and Roque Cedeno.

VENUE: Miami Dade County Auditorium
2901 W Flagler St, Miami, FL 33135

▶ **OCTOBER 29** | Sunday | 3:00 PM

SPOOKY SYMPHONY 2023

Our fifteenth annual free, kid-friendly, multimedia Halloween spectacular presented in partnership with Greater Miami Youth Symphony and The Children's Trust. The combined orchestras, with musicians in costume, will present eerie classics and current movie favorites, backed by coordinated images on a huge screen.

VENUE: Miami Dade County Auditorium
2901 W Flagler St, Miami, FL 33135

▶ **JANUARY 21** | Sunday | 7:30 PM

SOUTH FLORIDA'S GOT TALENT

The top three winners of our annual concerto competition will perform their solos with the orchestra, interspersed with short orchestral masterworks. This is one of our most popular events.

VENUE: Wertheim Performing Arts Center
// 10910 SW 17th St, Miami, FL 33172

Dear Musicians,

Get ready for a delightful musical journey as we unveil our new season! Our amazing conductor Daniel Andai will guide us through captivating repertoire. We can look forward to a season filled with challenging, enjoyable rehearsals and unforgettable performances.

Even though we've been producing concerts for 33 seasons, each one presents a new set of conundrums. Helen Hauser, our wonderful Executive Director, tackles and conquers most of these. Our board members and musicians also take on necessary tasks. We can't do it without every one of you!

Clarinetist Evan Eldridge completed a huge project for the orchestra. For *West*



Evan Eldridge

Side Story he reviewed 10,000 measures, transposed some parts, and reduced 23 reed instrument parts to just eight! Amazingly, it worked! Our agile and versatile reed musicians each juggled 2, 3, or 4 instruments; no small task! Thank you Evan, our reed musicians, and each one of you for the extra effort that you contribute.

Your cooperation and commitment to our Alhambra Orchestra helps make us a valued part of the Miami music scene.

In joyful anticipation of our next season,

August Neal, President



David Sucik carrying his 4 instruments for *West Side Story*

MESSAGE FROM OUR ARTISTIC DIRECTOR



IT'S BEEN A WONDERFUL SEASON. Thank you for permitting me to share my love for music with each of you. Remember, this year's goal wasn't "to be together," it was "to become aware of ourselves and the score, so that playing synchronously became the result."

This season, respected composers Beethoven, Bernstein, Rimsky-Korsakov, Brahms, and Dvorak challenged us with their beautiful compositions, and we began rotating musicians to stimulate comfort zones. We learned that infusing the season in these two ways caused us to learn more about ourselves as an ensemble, resulting in the search for a more synchronous experience.

Next season, we continue improvement plans through mentorship-style opportunities that empower orchestra members and increase the return on investment in rehearsals and concerts, by standardizing a new bar of excellence. All of this, to enhance your overall experience throughout the year. All musicians are welcome at Alhambra Orchestra, current and future members, so that we grow our community and ourselves.

Thank you for making each performance memorable, but mostly, for your willingness to show up, express, perform, and generously give of yourself to the music and your colleagues.

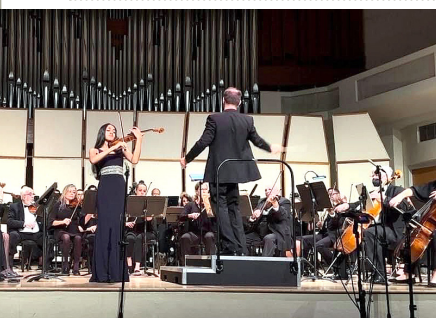
With respect and admiration,
Daniel Andai, Artistic Director

REHEARSALS START AUGUST 16th

Unitarian Universalist Congregation, 7701 SW 76th Ave, Miami, FL 33143 **BRING A MUSIC STAND**

The Alhambra Orchestra will continue to rehearse at the UU Congregation. This is a big space, air conditioned, with plenty of parking. We are very grateful to Rev. Tom Capo, 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.

As the date of the first rehearsal approaches, we will tell you what distancing, masking or other precautions, if any, may be needed, based on current recommendations for orchestras.



REPORT ON 2022-2023 SEASON

WOW! LOOK WHAT WE ACCOMPLISHED IN OUR 2022-23 SEASON

The orchestra began rehearsing in mid-August for an exciting new program, a Hispanic Heritage concert in Miami-Dade County Auditorium. We also had a new and challenging experience working with singers to perform West Side Story with original Broadway orchestration. Besides the live performances described below, we posted videos of selected portions of our concerts on our free YouTube channel.

SEPT. 24, 2022 - HISPANIC HERITAGE, MIAMI DADE COUNTY AUDITORIUM, 7:30 PM, FREE: Alhambra Orchestra and Miami Dade County Auditorium co-presented a free celebration of Hispanic-inspired showpieces including Rimsky-Korsakov's Capriccio Espagnol, the lovely Concierto de Aranjuez with guitar soloist Koh Kazama from New World School of the Arts, selections from Bizet's Carmen, and popular tunes "Recuerdos de la Alhambra" and "Malaguena." A very enthusiastic crowd of 1430 attended despite rainy weather.

OCT. 30, 2022 - SPOOKY SYMPHONY, MIAMI DADE COUNTY AUDITORIUM, 4 PM, FREE. For the 14th edition of our annual free Halloween concert for local families and children, the Alhambra Orchestra partnered with the Greater Miami Youth Symphony for a fast-paced one-hour show of eerie classics and popular movie themes: Saint-Saens' Danse Macabre and Bacchanale, Gounod's Mephisto Waltz, and soundtracks from The Avengers, Gladiator, Wicked and Jurassic Park. Audience and performers wore costumes, and spooky images to accompany the music were projected on a huge screen behind the combined orchestras. Attendance was 1422. Excerpts from that performance can be seen on our YouTube channel.

NOV. 19, 2022 - ALHAMBRA QUARTET AT MIAMI CANCER CENTER, 10:30 AM, FREE. The orchestra's in-house string quartet performed a free one-hour program of light classics and popular tunes in the lobby of Miami Cancer Center, for patients and staff. The performance was also broadcast live for patients and staffers who couldn't be in the lobby at that time. Estimated attendance was 250.

DEC 15, 2022 - ELECTRIC HOLIDAYS, PINECREST GARDENS, 7 PM, FREE WITH PARK ADMISSION. The orchestra's electric strings ensemble, "Alhambra Amped" presented an hour of jazzed-up holiday classics during the Nights of Lights celebration at Pinecrest Gardens. The performance was free with admission to the Gardens. Attendance was 135.

Dec. 17, 2022 - WONDER OF CHRISTMAS, 7:30 PM, CHRIST THE KING LUTHERAN CHURCH, FREE. The "Alhambra Amped" electric strings ensemble repeated most of their

holiday performance, free, for a new audience, also joining with vocalists from the host organization for a Trans-Siberian Orchestra favorite, "Christmas Canon." Attendance was 160.

DEC 19, 2022 - ALHAMBRA QUARTET AT MIAMI CANCER CENTER, 10:30 AM, FREE. The string quartet returned to Miami Cancer Center with a one-hour free program of holiday music enthusiastically welcomed by patients and staff. About 180 patients and staff came through the lobby and listened; a recording was made to be played for inpatients, reaching about 90 more.

JAN. 8, 2023 - WORKSHOP RECITAL, UNIVERSITY OF MIAMI, 4 PM, FREE. Concluding the orchestra's annual chamber music workshop for local student and amateur musicians, the participants gave a free recital at the University of Miami's Clarke Recital Hall with works by Beethoven, Borodin, Schubert, Mozart and Haydn. Attendance was 55.

JAN. 22, 2023 - SOUTH FLORIDA'S GOT TALENT, FIU WERTHEIM PERFORMING ARTS CENTER, 7:30 PM, FREE. The orchestra presented four young concerto competition winners as soloists, and also performed two orchestral masterworks to introduce each half of the program. Three teenaged violinists and one cellist performed famous concerti by Bruch, Tchaikovsky and Dvorak, while the orchestra alone presented Sibelius' Finlandia and two of Brahms' lively Hungarian Dances. As always, this free, popular annual event drew young friends and colleagues of the performers as well as adults from three counties where the winners resided. There were multiple curtain calls and the audience was very appreciative. Attendance was 455.

FEB 12, 2023 - LUNCH CONCERT, BOOKS & BOOKS, CORAL GABLES, 11 AM, FREE. A flute and cello duo performed light classics and popular songs during a Valentines Day brunch in the courtyard of Books & Books in Coral Gables from 11 am to 12:30pm. About 75 patrons enjoyed the performance, and many passers-by along this popular Coral Gables street also stopped to listen.

REPORT ON 2022-2023 SEASON

FEB 17 & FEB 18, 2023 - WEST SIDE STORY, PINECREST GARDENS, 8 PM. In a dynamic partnership with Miami Acting Company, the orchestra and MAC presented a concert version of the timeless West Side Story, including dialog, and all of Bernstein's beloved songs. Transformed into a Broadway pit orchestra, symphony musicians gave a rousing performance which thrilled a total audience of 680 over two nights, and drew standing ovations. Ticket prices were a modest \$30 for adults, \$20 for seniors and students.

MARCH 5, 2023 - ALHAMBRA AMPED AT UNITARIAN CHURCH, FREE. Our electric strings group gave an informal afternoon concert of classic rock tunes for members of the Unitarian Universalist Congregation where we rehearse weekly. Attendance was 20.

MARCH 12, 2023 - GO FOR BAROQUE, CORAL GABLES CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH, 7:30 PM, FREE. Members of

the orchestra, in small ensembles, presented a curated program of multiple forms and styles of Baroque music from Germany, England, France, Italy and Spain, including a Vivaldi violin concerto. There were solo performances by UM cellist Prof. Ross Harbaugh and concertmaster Dr. Steffen Zeichner. Sponsored by the City of Coral Gables, this program drew an enthusiastic audience of 320. Audience members told us they enjoyed the different styles from so many countries.

MAY 6, 2023 - 33RD SEASON FINALE, FIU WERTHEIM PERFORMING ARTS CENTER, 7:30 PM, FREE. This Saturday evening all-Beethoven event drew 420 attendees for a rousing performance of Symphony no. 1 and Piano Concerto no. 5 with dynamic FIU Artist-in Residence Kemal Gekic as soloist. The audience included seniors who told us that they had not been to concerts in recent years and were very grateful for this free event, as well as several families with children.

REPERTOIRE SELECTED FOR 2023-24

HISPANIC HERITAGE CELEBRATION

Manuel De Falla- "Ritual Fire Dance" from El Amor Brujo
Sebastien Yradier arr. Robert Longfield- "La Paloma"
Astor Piazzola, arr. Robert Longfield - "Oblivion"
Maurice Ravel- Bolero
Lin Manuel Miranda, arr. Larry Moore - Music from Encanto
Augustin Lara- "Granada"
Gloria Estefan arr Victor Lopez - Gloria Estefan Rocks
Consuelo Velazquez- "Besame Mucho"
Joseito Fernandez, arr, Victor Lopez - "Guantanamera"
Arturo Marquez, Danzon no. 2

SPOOKY SYMPHONY- Repertoire TBA

SOUTH FLORIDA'S GOT TALENT

3 concerti chosen by winners
Johann Strauss- Overture to Die Fledermaus
Giuseppi Verdi - Overture to Nabucco

CHAMBER CONCERT - A VISIT TO ITALY

Brass quintet if available, Gabrielli or Monteverdi arrangement
Corelli - "Pastorale" from Christmas Concerto (arr. for wind quintet)
Vivaldi - Il Tempeste di Mare (solo flute with strings)
Morriconi- "Gabriel's Oboe" (arr for wind quintet)

Rossini- Sonata for Strings no. 2 in A minor, 1st mvt
Boccherini- movement from one of his string quintets or quartets (Alhambra Quartet)
Puccini - I Chrysanthemi
Respighi - Ancient Airs and Dances, Suite 3

OUT OF THIS WORLD

Richard Strauss - Also Sprach Zarathustra (opening)
Claude Debussy arr. Merle J. Isaac - Clair de Lune
Gustav Holst - "Mars" and "Jupiter" from The Planets
James Horner, arr. Calvin Custer- Star Trek Through the Years
Ludwig van Beethoven - Moonlight Sonata, mvt. 1, arr. for full orchestra
James Horner, arr. John Moss - Music from Apollo 13
Richard Rodgers, arr. Herfurth - "Blue Moon"
John Williams, arr. Steven Bulla - Star Wars Through the Years

SEASON FINALE- AMERICAN CLASSICS

Aaron Copland - "Hoedown" from Rodeo
Leonard Bernstein, arr. Maurice Peress - West Side Story Overture
Ferde Grofe - "On the Trail" from Grand Canyon Suite
George Gershwin - Rhapsody in Blue
Aaron Copland, arr. Robert Longfield, Fanfare for the Common Man
Aaron Copland - Lincoln Portrait
John Williams - Highlights from Jurassic Park



HIGHLIGHTS OF OUR PLANS FOR 2023-24 SEASON

HISPANIC HERITAGE CONCERT Saturday evening, Sept. 23, 2023, Miami-Dade County Auditorium -- Jointly presented with MDCA, this free season opener is a lively gift to the public featuring Spanish and Spanish-influenced favorites including Ravel's Bolero, the "Ritual Fire Dance" from DeFalla's El Amor Brujo, and Danzon No. 2 by Marquez, plus several popular Spanish songs. Last year it was extremely well received. We will have as special guests Carolina DeLeon's Doral Symphony Orchestra (all strings) who will perform two pieces to open the second half and then join us for the remainder of the program. We need to start rehearsals in mid-August to prepare this program.

SPOOKY SYMPHONY Sunday afternoon, Oct. 29, 2023, in Miami-Dade County Auditorium—Our fifteenth annual free, kid-friendly, multi-media Halloween spectacular presented in partnership with Greater Miami Youth Symphony and The Children's Trust. The combined orchestras, with musicians in costume, will present eerie classics and current movie favorites, backed by coordinated images on a huge screen.

SOUTH FLORIDA'S GOT TALENT Sunday evening, Jan. 21, 2024, in FIU's Wertheim Performing Arts Center—The top three winners of our annual concerto competition will perform their solos with the orchestra, interspersed with opera overtures by Rossini and Strauss. This is one of our most popular events.

A VISIT TO ITALY Sunday evening, Feb. 18, 2024, at Coral Gables Congregational Church—For our annual chamber concert, varied ensembles of strings and winds will present music by Italian composers including Boccherini, Vivaldi, Puccini, Rossini, Morricone, and Respighi.

OUT OF THIS WORLD Sunday afternoon, April 7, 2024 in the Moss Center (formerly SMDCAC), an exciting new venue for us. Inspired by a total solar eclipse coming up on Monday, the orchestra will partner with the Moss Center to produce a space-oriented family concert with astronomical images projected behind the orchestra. Highlights include music from Holst's Planets and from movie/TV franchises Apollo 13, Star Wars, and Star Trek, and orchestral arrangements of other space-themed works.

34th SEASON FINALE—AMERICAN CLASSICS Sunday evening, June 2, 2024, at FIU's Wertheim Performing Arts Center—We plan to close out our season with a thrilling all-American program including Rhapsody in Blue (100 years since its debut), Lincoln Portrait, and more pieces by Leonard Bernstein, Ferde Grofe, Aaron Copland and John Williams.

Besides these plans for large concerts, our Alhambra String Quartet will perform a Valentines Day program in the new Sanctuary of the Arts on Sunday afternoon Feb. 11, 2024. Alhambra Amped, our electric strings ensemble, will perform for Nights of Lights at Pinecrest Gardens in December. Both are working on additional bookings. Also, our rehearsal venue, the Unitarian Universalist Congregation, will be requesting musicians for occasional performances on Sundays. This year, we hope that we can make some school visits with trios or quartets, something we have not been allowed to do the past few years. So there will be plenty of performance opportunities for all.



PERFORMANCE AND REHEARSAL SCHEDULE

Please remember that this schedule reflects everything we know about as of this writing. But sometimes there is an unforeseen complication, like what happened in May of 2023 when we had to move our long-planned season finale from Sunday to Saturday because of a conflict with MISO. 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.



ORCHESTRA CALENDAR

2023

Tuesday, Aug. 15 CONCERTO COMPETITION OPENS
Wednesday, Aug. 16 Rehearsal at UUCM
Wednesday, Aug. 23 Rehearsal at UUCM
Wednesday, Aug. 30 Rehearsal at UUCM
Wednesday, Sept. 6 Rehearsal at UUCM
Wednesday, Sept. 13 Rehearsal at UUCM
Wednesday, Sept. 20 Rehearsal at UUCM
**SATURDAY SEPT. 23, 7:30 PM AT MDCA
HISPANIC HERITAGE CELEBRATION CONCERT - FREE**
Wednesday, Sept. 27 Rehearsal at UUCM
Concerto competition deadline Oct. 1- all digital application process
Wednesday, Oct. 4 Rehearsal at UUCM
Wednesday, Oct. 11 Rehearsal at UUCM
Concerto competition final round Sunday, Oct. 15, 2 pm, venue TBA
Wednesday, Oct. 18 Rehearsal at UUCM
Wednesday, Oct. 25 Rehearsal at UUCM
**SUNDAY, OCTOBER 29, 3:00 PM AT MDCA
SPOOKY SYMPHONY WITH GMYS - Dress rehearsal 12 noon**
Tuesday, October 31, Midnight – DEADLINE FOR CONCERTO
COMPETITION ENTRIES
Wednesday, Nov. 1 Rehearsal at UUCM
Wednesday, Nov. 8 Rehearsal at UUCM
Wednesday, Nov. 15 Rehearsal at UUCM
Sunday, November 19—FINALS OF CONCERTO COMPETITION
Wednesday, Nov. 22 **NO REHEARSAL**
Wednesday, Nov. 29 Rehearsal at UUCM
Wednesday, Dec. 6 Rehearsal and/or Party at UUCM
Wednesday, Dec. 13 Rehearsal at UUCM
**WEDNESDAY, DEC 20, 2023 AT 7 PM, ELECTRIC STRINGS ENSEMBLE
PLAYS HOLIDAY MUSIC AT PINECREST GARDENS NIGHTS OF LIGHTS**
Wednesday, Dec. 20 **NO REHEARSAL - WINTER BREAK**
Wednesday, Dec. 27 **NO REHEARSAL - WINTER BREAK**

2024

Wednesday, Jan. 3 Rehearsal at UUCM WITH SOLOISTS
*Chamber music workshop January 5-7,
Recital Sunday Jan 7 at Clarke Recital Hall, University of Miami*
Wednesday, Jan. 10 Rehearsal at UUCM WITH SOLOISTS
Wednesday, Jan. 17 Rehearsal at UUCM WITH SOLOISTS
**SUNDAY, JAN 21 AT FIU, 7:30PM "SOUTH FLORIDA'S GOT TALENT"
Dress rehearsal 3 pm - FREE**
Wednesday, Jan. 24 Rehearsal for Chamber Concert at UUCM
Wednesday, Jan. 31 Rehearsal for Chamber Concert at UUCM
Wednesday, Feb. 7 Rehearsal for Chamber Concert at UUCM
**SUNDAY, FEB 11 AT SANCTUARY OF THE ARTS, 3:00 PM
ALHAMBRA QUARTET: "A VALENTINE WITH STRINGS"**
Wednesday, Feb. 14 Rehearsal for Chamber Concert at UUCM
**SUNDAY, FEB 18 AT CORAL GABLES CC, 7:30 PM
"A VISIT TO ITALY" CHAMBER CONCERT - FREE**
Wednesday, Feb. 21 Rehearsal at UUCM
Wednesday, Feb. 28 Rehearsal at UUCM
Wednesday, Mar. 6 Rehearsal at UUCM
Wednesday, Mar. 13 Rehearsal at UUCM
Wednesday, Mar. 20 Rehearsal at UUCM
Wednesday, Mar. 27 Rehearsal at UUCM
Wednesday, Apr. 3 Rehearsal at UUCM
**SUNDAY, APRIL 7 AT MOSS CENTER, 4:00 PM
"OUT OF THIS WORLD" - FREE**
Wednesday, Apr. 10 Rehearsal at UUCM
Wednesday, Apr. 17 Rehearsal at UUCM
Wednesday, Apr. 24 Rehearsal at UUCM
Wednesday, May 1 Rehearsal at UUCM
Wednesday, May 8 Rehearsal at UUCM
Wednesday, May 15 Rehearsal at UUCM
Wednesday, May 22 Rehearsal at UUCM
Wednesday, May 29 Rehearsal at UUCM
**SUNDAY, JUNE 2 AT FIU, 7:30 PM
"34th SEASON FINALE" Dress rehearsal 3-5 pm - FREE**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

WANT TO ROCK WITH US?

For several years, some of our orchestra members have been playing in a fun-loving group we call "Alhambra Amped," consisting of amplified instruments with drums and keyboard. Its repertoire is classic rock tunes and pop music, plus patriotic and holiday tunes for various holidays. This group can play both indoors and outdoors for various events, and has performed at malls, outdoor festivals, and celebrations.



The sheet music we use is basically string quartet arrangements which we adapt a bit, adding percussion, bass and keyboard if not already scored. We are mostly electric violins, violas, and cellos – but any C instrument, whether fully electric or able to attach a pickup that plugs into an amp, is welcome. You can bring an acoustic instrument at first, if you haven't yet decided whether to venture into the electric world, or we might be able to lend you an electric one to try out. Please contact Helen Hauser, hhauser@alhambraorchestra.org, if you would like to jam with us.

WE CAN'T WAIT TO SEE YOU ON AUGUST 16th



Things to consider while practicing your music...

Don't play it until you get it right, play it until you can't play it wrong.

Practice only on the days that you eat.

If you can play it slow, you can play it fast.

It is performance ready if you can play 7 times without error.

Learn things slowly and accurately first, then gradually speed things up.

HISTORICAL NOTES



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 and we seek to serve the needs of 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 cost-prohibitive, for many of our citizens to experience the excellent classical music performances that the city offers, but there is still a huge demand for concerts. That's our niche. We particularly seek to reach seniors, families with children, and underserved populations, and to encourage music education. 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," and our annual chamber music concert. The orchestra presents major symphonies, concertos with eminent local soloists, pops concerts, and children's concerts. We have an informal series of hospital visits and community center visits by small ensembles, as well. Since our management and all but a few of

the performers are volunteers, Alhambra Orchestra can do all these projects on a budget that is a small fraction of what other orchestras need.

The orchestra was founded in 1990 by Dr. Leo Walz, who was then a graduate student, and 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 is an independent, self-governing nonprofit which has formed close alliances with other arts organizations, venues, and educational institutions as, over the years, it became an important part of the cultural community. Under the leadership of Dr. Daniel Andai, our Artistic Director and principal conductor, the Alhambra Orchestra continues to improve the quality of its presentations and to reach new audiences. It serves over 6000 audience members per year. The orchestra's "can-do" attitude is exemplified by our innovative use of videos and small-ensemble programs during COVID surges, and our "Out of This World" event in 2024, a new partnership with the Moss Center.

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. We started receiving local government grant monies, expanding our activities, and we created the role of artistic director/conductor. Five years ago, we took the next step by expanding our board and transitioning Helen Hauser to the role of Executive Director. She handles grant-writing, strategic planning, and scheduling. All of our management is volunteer. Board members and other volunteers handle all of the behind-the-scenes tasks needed to present a full season of high-quality concerts. Artistic Director Dr. Daniel Andai plans the repertoire, designs the rehearsals, and oversees the artistic quality of our orchestra.

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 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, alhambraorchestra.org. Joe, August and our other officers and directors are listed below. You should also obtain contact information for your section leader in case you have to be absent unexpectedly, or have some other question.

We have Board elections each year, when half of the board gets elected for a two-year term. This allows for turnover as well as continuity, because half of the board remains in office. The board also appoints replacements for board members who resign or move out of town, as some have done recently. New board members since last summer are Sophia Camejo, Ruth Smith, Kelvin Clavelo and Carolina DeLeon. Some of the board members have specific responsibilities indicated below, and

others just pitch in as needed. Please feel free to contact any of these officers and directors with your ideas, suggestions, issues, or questions.

MEET THE LEADERSHIP & YOUR BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Helen Hauser, Executive Director hhauser@alhambraorchestra.org

August Neal, President aneal@alhambraorchestra.org

Joe Yeargin, Vice President and Personnel Chair Jyeargin40@gmail.com

Orlando Haddock, Marketing Director/Webmaster ohaddock@yahoo.com

Javier Albornoz, Secretary javier.albornoz@gmail.com

Janet Copeland, Treasurer treasurer@alhambraorchestra.org

Kelvin Clavelo, Board Member, Concerto Competition Committee kclavelo@yahoo.com

Pamela Yen, Board Member, Social Director pamelayen82@gmail.com

Barbara Tria, Board Member, Venue Liaison facilities@alhambraorchestra.org

Carol Naveira Nicholson, Board Member carol2207@aol.com

Matt Leone, Board Member, Videographer leoncreative@mac.com

Ruth Smith, Board Member, Chamber Workshop Committee, Facebook ruthruth@alumni.unc.edu

Carolina DeLeon, Board Member caro-de-leon@hotmail.com

Vladimir Perez Popov, Board Member, Librarian rriigan@gmail.com

Sophia Camejo, Board Member, Concerto Competition Committee scamejo912@gmail.com

OUR SPECIAL MUSICAL PROJECTS

This will be the 20th 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 youth 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. Indeed, we are mentioned in the recent Strings Magazine article about him. <https://stringsmagazine.com/the-accidental-cellist-thomas-mesa-has-forged-an-impressive-career-after-a-lucky-mistake-led-him-to-his-instrument/> Our competition was the first such event that he won, so we can claim that we actually launched his career.


The initial round of the competition is now fully 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 who will be our soloists. Invitations go to local teachers, music schools, and college preparatory programs, and former competitors. Kelvin Clavelo and Sophia Camejo will be running the competition this year, so contact them if you would like to help. We need people at the final rounds to welcome the competitors, greet their families, and usher them in and out of warmup rooms. We will start accepting entries in August and conclude the finals by mid-November.

This will also be the 20th year for our annual “Be Better with Bergonzi” chamber music workshop. It began after a popular music workshop in St. Petersburg ceased 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 official 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 5-8 ensembles of amateurs and students. 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 4-6 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 5, 6, and 7, 2024. Contact Ruth Smith or Helen Hauser if you are interested.



KEEPING IN TOUCH WITH THE ORCHESTRA

Our website, AlhambraOrchestra.org, will have our schedule and general information about the orchestra. We also have an orchestra email, music@alhambraorchestra.org, Facebook messages, and our voice-mail, (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-137334336296762

 instagram.com/alhambraorchestra

 linkedin.com/organization-guest/company/alhambra-orchestra

 youtube.com/c/AlhambraOrchestraMiami

MONEY MATTERS



Nearly all our concerts are free, so we can carry out our mission of making great music accessible to our entire multi-cultural community, and this is surely a time when free concerts are needed. Thus, we don't make money from admissions except for an occasional concert where we make a decision to sell tickets. We are enormously grateful for all our skilled musicians who volunteer their time, plus our volunteer management, as well as the discounts we get from venues who understand and endorse our mission. But just like any performing group, we need to pay for venue rental; insurance; music copyright and rental fees; publicity costs (yes, even for

a 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 almost \$100,000 in cash expenses for each of our recent, very active performing seasons. We are funded by government grants, local foundations, and individual donations. We ask our member musicians to help cover the operating costs by paying a modest **\$160 per year** in dues, a number which we recently raised by only \$10 because of ongoing inflation. So, 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 \$4 for each time you enjoy the benefit of working with our terrific conductor and congenial musicians. If possible, please bring your checks to the first rehearsal so we can start the year with some funding to carry us until grant money comes in. You can also pay online through our website, or by Venmo, @Alhambra-Orchestra. 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 \$160 is welcome to have a confidential discussion with our treasurer, Janet Copeland, who can give you a break. Thank you for your support!

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The Alhambra Orchestra's season is made possible with the support of the Miami-Dade County Department of Cultural Affairs and the Cultural Affairs Council, the Miami-Dade County Mayor and the Board of County Commissioners. It is also sponsored in part by the State of Florida, Department of State, Division of Cultural Affairs, the Florida Council on Arts and Culture, with the National Endowment for the Arts.



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