

THE HILDEGARD BEHRENS FOUNDATION

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The Hildegard Behrens Foundation is created to help young artists reach their true artistic and humanitarian potential.

The Metropolitan Opera Lindemann Young Artist Development Program and YOA Orchestra of the Americas receive 2010 awards. Grantee institutions identify exceptional young artists, with keen musical intelligence and deep humanity, for professional training and performance opportunities, in honor of the great German dramatic soprano, Hildegard Behrens.

New York, NY. The Hildegard Behrens Foundation, created in honor of the great German dramatic soprano, is launched by Dr. Gaston Ormazábal, a long-time friend of the legendary opera singer who passed away in Tokyo one year ago today.

The founding members of the Advisory Board are Philip Behrens (Munich/Washington), Gloria Cajipe (San Diego), Alexandra Kauka (Munich/New York), Ken Noda (New York), Prince Fabrizio Ruspoli di Poggio Suasa (Paris/Marrakesh) and Mary Gene Sondericker (New York).

The Foundation plans to make contributions to American institutions to commemorate Ms. Behrens' artistic legacy: perfect architecture of the musical phrase, complete classical training in the historical context of Western civilization, and deep humanity. **The Metropolitan Opera Lindemann Young Artist Development Program** and **YOA Orchestra of the Americas** receive 2010 awards.

Hildegard Behrens was widely regarded as one of the greatest German dramatic sopranos of the 20th century and among the foremost Wagnerian sopranos of all time. She was most celebrated for her riveting portrayals of the most demanding soprano roles in the operatic repertoire —the great heroines which she sang with a powerful radiance. She was a sublimely human Leonore in Ludwig van Beethoven's *Fidelio*, a monumental Brünnhilde in Richard Wagner's *The Ring of the Nibelung*, and a searingly anguished *Elektra* in the title role of Richard Strauss' opera —her sensational performance at the Metropolitan Opera to be released on DVD on September 21, 2010.

Ms. Behrens' art was characterized by a keen musical intelligence and a profound understanding of the intellectual underpinning of her roles. But it was her overwhelming humanity that most endeared her to opera-lovers world-wide, eloquently demonstrated by the unprecedented outpouring of grief at her untimely passing on August 18, 2009.

In the last years of her life, Hildegard Behrens dedicated herself to handing down these values personally to the next generation. In fact, death found her as she was about to begin Master Classes at the Kusatsu Festival in Japan. Throughout her career, Ms. Behrens was also a great friend of the Americas. She made spectacular débuts at Teatro Colón Buenos Aires, Teatro Municipal Rio de Janeiro and Santiago de Chile, and the Metropolitan Opera in New York, her artistic home for almost twenty-five years.

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“Hildegard Behrens broke through every wall in my human experience with the sound of her voice. It was the purest heart and soul from within the most challenging depths. Her artistry was about finding the light and in doing so, gave us all the gift of hope. Long live the Hildegard Behrens Foundation in honoring the future of young artists with her embrace.”

—Ken Noda
Musical Assistant to James Levine
Lindemann Young Artist Development Program

Lindemann Young Artist Development Program

The goal of the Metropolitan Opera's Lindemann Young Artist Development Program, founded in 1980, is to nurture the most talented young artists through training and performance opportunities.

The Lindemann Young Artist Development Program uses the Met's unique resources to identify and educate young singers and coach/pianists for major careers in opera. To meet the individual needs of each young artist, the Program provides specialized training in music, language, dramatic coaching, and movement from the Met's own artistic staff and invited master teachers. Along with an annual stipend for living expenses, the Program also funds private lessons with approved teachers from outside the Met staff. In addition, Program participants have access to rehearsals for all Metropolitan Opera productions. Participants are offered a position with the Program for a period of one year with annual renewal for up to three years for singers and two years for pianists. During this period, the young artists' engagements in and outside of the Met are at the consent of the Artistic and Executive Directors.

The 2009-10 season marks the 30th anniversary of the Lindemann Young Artist Development Program, founded by Music Director James Levine to nurture the most talented young artists and prepare them for major careers in opera. Graduates include Stephanie Blythe, Dwayne Croft, Mariusz Kwiecien, Heidi Grant Murphy, Nathan Gunn, Lisette Oropesa, and Danielle de Niese, among others. **To learn more, VISIT www.metoperafamily.org.**



Layla Claire —selected as a Hildegard Behrens Young Artist— has been called a “focused, remarkably rich soprano” who performs with “emotive force and a poised sensitivity.” Her engaging and thoughtful musicianship, combined with a voice of shimmering beauty, has been publicly acclaimed, particularly in her portrayals of Mozart’s heroines. Layla Claire opens her 2010-11 season in Mahler’s 2nd symphony with the Boston Symphony Orchestra conducted by Michael Tilson Thomas followed by her Met debut as Tebaldo in *Don Carlo* under the baton of Yannick Nézet-Séguin. As a member of the Metropolitan Opera’s Lindemann Young Artist

Development Program she will cover Euridice in *Orfeo ed Euridice*. In the spring of 2011 she will join the Metropolitan Opera’s tour of Japan. Recent performances include opera galas with San Francisco Symphony and L’Opera de Montreal, recitals with the Philadelphia Chamber Society and the Lindemann Program, Beethoven’s ninth symphony with the Russian National Orchestra under

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the baton of Itzhak Perlman, Messiah with the Atlanta Symphony, Clothilde in Bellini's *Norma* with L'Orchestre Symphonique de Montreal conducted by Kent Nagano, and Mahler's 4th symphony with the Virginia Symphony Orchestra. Layla Claire sang the roles of Donna Anna and Fiordiligi at Tanglewood in past seasons and Donna Elvira and the Countess while at the Curtis Institute of Music. At Curtis she also sang Erisbe in Cavalli's *I'Ormindo* and Margarita Xirgu in *Ainadamar* by Osvlado Golijov.

Layla Claire has won numerous awards including the Mozart Prize at the Wilhelm Stenhammar International Music Competition (2008), and First Prize in the Eckhardt-Gramatté National Music Competition (2005). She is a CBC Radio-Canada Jeunes Artistes recital winner, a recipient of J. Desmarais Foundation Scholarships, and a proud recipient of a Canada Council Grant. She has also taken prizes at the Queen Elisabeth International Competition, Palm Beach Opera Competition, George London Foundation and the Marian Anderson Prize for Emerging Classical Artists.

“Hildegard Behrens was an artist of passion and commitment. I treasure the memory of our collaboration in the Munich Residence Theatre production of Tristan and Isolde and the Elektra in Salzburg. Those were magnificent performances...vibrant, compelling, memorable. May her spirit continue to inspire us all.”

—Lorin Maazel

Conductor of YOA chamber ensemble at Castleton Farms, Virginia

YOA Orchestra of the Americas

Founded in 2001, YOA Orchestra of the Americas is a pan-American world-class symphony orchestra of 100 young musicians from more than 20 countries of the Western Hemisphere. Each year, a new orchestra is formed through a free, open and transparent audition process at local, national and international levels. The most deserving talents, ages 18 to 30, participate in international residences and concert tours during the year-long season. For each YOA program, musicians travel from their native countries to a teaching residence followed by a concert(s) or concert tour, then return home to share their experiences. Programs are held throughout the year in different regions of the Americas, rotating between North, South, Central America and the Caribbean. In 2006, YOA held a residence and concert tour in Europe. In 2008, YOA ran a week-long program in Rome to perform a High Mass at Saint Peter's Basilica in the Vatican. In each program, YOA offers rigorous training with a music faculty from the most respected institutions and professional orchestras in the world. Leading conductors and dynamic guest soloists perform with YOA musicians in some of the world's most prestigious concert halls as well as in marginalized neighborhoods for youth and families with little or no access to symphonic music.

Community Outreach is the hallmark of YOA. Musicians learn music education skills to become “teaching artists” and language studies to more fully discover the diverse cultures in the Orchestra and broaden their understanding of peoples, places and socio-economic realities in our shared hemisphere. These skills are put to work in community outreach programs — Musicians give music instruction and perform chamber and symphonic concerts with local youth wherever YOA travels.

To learn more, VISIT www.yoa.org

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Five YOA musicians — whose talents are matched by their commitment to humanitarian ideals— selected as 2010 Hildegard Behrens Young Artists:



Deborah Wanderley dos Santos (violin)

Deborah began violin studies at age 10 in her hometown of Brasilia (Brazil) under Patricia Mello at Escola de Musica de Brasilia. She made her solo orchestra debut at age 12 with Art Brasilia Symphony. Music became her escape from an unstable home environment and she participated in many children's and youth orchestras. At age 17, she left Brasilia for Porto Alegre to follow her dream to be a professional musician. She went from playing for coins on the streets to a position, at age 18, with Porto Alegre Symphony, one of the top five professional orchestras in Brazil. Other opportunities followed – with YOA Orchestra of the Americas and the famous Simón Bolívar Youth Orchestra of Venezuela. On YOA's 2005 Latin America Tour, Deborah had her first exposure to *El Sistema*, Venezuela's remarkable youth orchestra program that has transformed the lives of more than one million at-risk children. It was also her first contact with *El Sistema's* founder José Antonio Abreu and Gustavo Dudamel, now superstar conductor of the Los Angeles Philharmonic. Also on this Tour, Deborah came to the attention of Alex Klein, YOA oboe faculty and former principal oboe of Chicago Symphony Orchestra. Klein recommended her to the Vermeer Quartet's Richard Young, who brought her to the United States in 2006 for advanced study in violin, viola, and chamber music.

In 2008, Deborah founded YOURS Project (Youth Orchestra Urban Rita Simon) in partnership with The People's Music School. Using the *El Sistema* philosophy, YOURS offers hope, discipline, and spiritual enrichment to children from inner-city Chicago. Deborah recruited a dedicated faculty of university music students plus a few high-profile professionals, many of whom donate their services. She persuaded various important instrument dealers to donate instruments. YOURS Project started with 35 students and 10 volunteer teachers. It is now a fully funded program with 3 Symphony Orchestras, 170 students and 25 teachers. Deborah's work in the Chicago community has been featured in the *Chicago Tribune*, *Hoy Newspaper* and on Univision, Chicago's Spanish-speaking TV station. She was named one of the "People You Should Know" on Harry Porterfield's ABC television program. In 2009, the YOURS Project was recognized as the first (and only) "El Sistema Nucleo in Chicago" by the Venezuelan Consulate, who arranged a visit by Maestro Abreu. Abreu was so impressed that he asked to be an Honorary member of the People's Music School and YOURS Project. In 2009, Deborah was awarded the Adelante Prize for Excellency in Community Services.

In May 2009, Deborah founded and directed *Music for Peace Festival* to bring young musicians from across the Americas who are involved in social projects through music to Chicago. Deborah has spent three months working with NEOJIBÁ Nucleo children in Bahía, Brazil. In October 2009, she represented YOA on an Organization of American States mission in the Caribbean where a team of orchestral teaching experts launched orchestra schools in St. Lucia, Jamaica and Haiti.

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Rodrigo Becerra Ibáñez (double bass)

Born in 1980 in Santiago Chile, Rodrigo began his music studies at age 16 on the Electric bass. In 1999, he began his formal studies in double bass at the Faculty of Arts of University of Chile. Four years later, he became a member of Orquesta Sinfónica Nacional del Ecuador in Quito where he has resided ever since.

From 2007, he has worked as Principal Double Bass and instrument and chamber music professor of Orquesta Filarmónica del Ecuador (formerly known as Sinfónica Juvenil del Ecuador) where he gives instrumental and chamber music lessons to some of his colleagues in the Philharmonic and lessons in improvisation to children of the pre-juvenile orchestra. A gifted teacher, Rodrigo leads workshops in Guayaquil with Cello and Double Bass lines (8 youngsters, between 11 and 17 years of age) of Youth Orchestra of Guayaquil. In Loja, he works with 6 pupils, ages 8 to 17. He teaches low-income children of *Sinfonía por la Vida* in collaboration with the Philharmonic and the recently created system of youth and children orchestras of the Esmeraldas Province in Ecuador. In Quito, he teaches 6 Double Bassists, between ages 14 and 21, on a regular basis.

Rodrigo has received scholarships during his career from Fundación Amigos del Teatro Municipal Santiago, Orquesta Sinfónica Juvenil de Chile and YOA Orchestra of the Americas, of which he has been a member since 2005. He has received scholarships to attend workshops in Mexico and Barcelona and participated in master classes from Double Bassists such as Klaus Stohl, David Carpio, Oscar Carnero, Cristof Rahn, and Timothy Cobb, among others.

In addition to Orquesta Filarmónica del Ecuador, he performs in Chamber, Latin-American, and Jazz groups, as well as experimental and improvisation groups, participating in workshops with professors Wade Matthews and Martin Joseph. He has played in performances, seasons and tours with dance and theater groups from Chile and Ecuador. Between 2004 and 2005, he was soloist with Orquesta Sinfónica de Loja and the Chamber Orchestra of Conservatorio Superior Nacional del Ecuador. Since September 2009, he has worked as an Instrument, Corporal Expression and Chamber Music professor at Conservatorio Franz Liszt in Quito.

In his words, "In YOA, besides learning what it takes to play alongside world famous musicians like Nelson Freire, Joshua Bell, Gabriela Montero, Kent Nagano and Carlos Miguel Prieto, I learn with 100 musicians each year—from all over the continent— where each person brings his/her musical and technical experience as well as cultures and customs. Everyone brings all of their energy and passion. That is what makes the YOA experience a pillar in the development of our careers, independently of where we come from, where we have studied or where we are working as professionals around the world. To be able to build networks with so many musicians and break through borders and stereotypes by establishing friendships and professional relationships with people from all over the Americas is invaluable."

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Guillermo Alberto Marín Rodríguez (clarinet)

Born (1986) and raised in Chinchiná, once considered the most dangerous city in Colombia, Guillermo Marín shines brightly as an example of the power of perseverance and faith. Guided by Professor Roberto De Gennaro at Universidad Nacional de Colombia in Bogotá, he graduated with Honors in Clarinet Performance and Conducting. From a very humble background, Guillermo has attended festivals in nearby Venezuela where, unlike his native country, opportunities exist. He has also found an important home in YOA Orchestra of the Americas, participating every year since 2005. He participated in VI and VII Festival de Jovenes Clarinetistas Venezolanos (Caracas 2004-2006) and 1st Festival de Vientos Maderas de Venezuela (2007); with YOA Orchestra of the Americas — 2005, 2008 and 2010 Latin America Tours (Venezuela, Colombia, Argentina, Uruguay, Panamá, Ecuador, Perú and Brazil), 2006 European Tour (Belgium, Italy, France, Germany, England), 2007 White House Conference on the Americas Tour, and 2009 United States-Canada Tour; and the 62nd Geneva International Music Contest (Switzerland).

Guillermo has received most of his higher music training in Caracas, participating in Master classes with professors Valdemar Rodrigues, Jorge Montilla, Edgar Pronio, Luis Rossi, Antonio Saiote, Jonathan Cohler, Charles Neidich, Egveny Petrov, Michael Webster (with YOA), Thomas Friedly, Harry Sparnay, Walter Seyfarth, Gorgias Sanchez, Orlando Pimentel, Carmen Borregales and Ronald Van Spaendonck. He won the First Concurso Nacional de Clarinete “Henry Selmer Paris-Philippe Berrod” in 2006 (Colombia) and all of the most important Clarinet competitions in Colombia. As soloist, he has performed with Banda Sinfónica Juvenil de Cundinamarca, UN Symphonic Band, Bogotá Philharmonic Orchestra, Universidad Nacional de Colombia Philharmonic Orchestra, Orquesta Filarmónica del Valle, Symphonic Orchestra of Ciudad Guayana, Banda Sinfonica Juvenil Simon Bolivar and, in July 2010, with YOA Orchestra in Manizales and Bogotá.

Guillermo lives with the tragic loss of his brother in an accident at an early age and the death in 2009 of his 30-year old sister, quadriplegic and in a vegetative state since birth. With a warm, generous personality, he has channeled his grief into extraordinary, joyful compositions for chamber and full orchestra based on folkloric and dance songs of various regions of Colombia. He is an outstanding inspiration, teacher and leader in YOA Orchestra and Community Programs on tour and in YOA musician-initiated projects to teach underserved youth in their native countries.

Guillermo Marín is a recent graduate of the Latin-American Clarinet Academy directed by Professor Valdemar Rodriguez at Universidad Simon Bolívar in Caracas where he earned his Masters in Clarinet under Professor Luis Rossi. He currently resides in Bogotá where he plays in a clarinet quartet that focuses on traditional Colombian music. It is his dream to continue to explore the world outside of Colombia, so that he can bring experience and knowledge back to his home country.

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“I remember well Ms. Hildegard Behrens from rehearsals and performances as a fascinating artistic personality, gifted with an exceptionally beautiful voice.”

—Leon Spierer
YOA violin faculty
1963-1993 concertmaster of Berlin Philharmonic



Darwin Omar Aquino Tejada (violin)

Born in 1979 in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic, Darwin Aquino is an accomplished conductor, composer and violinist. He became a member of the National Symphony Orchestra of his native country at 16 years old. He has participated in numerous international music festivals including Santander (Spain), FOSJA (Puerto Rico), YOA Orchestra of the Americas (Founding member) and the Latin-American Youth Orchestra (Venezuela). He is the founding violinist of “Trio Dominicano” for which he has transcribed many pieces of Dominican classical music.

Mr. Aquino is winner of the Academic Composition Prize of the IV Music Festival of Santo Domingo conducted by Philippe Entremont. He has been awarded two Composition National Music Prizes in both Chamber and Symphonic Music. He was commissioned for the VI Musical Festival of Santo Domingo to write a full orchestra work for the closing concert.

Darwin was inspired by his YOA experience to return to his country to mentor young musicians and build a national youth orchestra system. He currently serves as Conductor of Orquesta Sinfónica Nacional Juvenil of the Dominican Republic and Artistic Director of the National System of Youth Orchestras under the auspices of the Ministry of Culture of the Dominican Republic. Under his baton, the Dominican National Youth Orchestra has performed two international concerts tours in Germany and New York, both highly acclaimed by the press. He is leading an ambitious program sponsored by the Ministry of Culture in October 2010 to bring a YOA ensemble of 40 musicians to teach and perform in a week-long program with over 100 of his young Dominican students. This program is part of official celebrations of 2010 *Santo Domingo Cultural Capital of the Americas* and will also raise awareness in his native country of the importance of private investment in youth music programs for positive social change and economic growth.

Aquino is the first Dominican musician to be named Composer in Residence of the National Symphony Orchestra of the Dominican Republic (2008-2009). His compositions have been performed at international festivals: New Music ISCM Festival of Miami, Festival Latinamericano de Música (Venezuela), Festival SMASH de Música Contemporánea in Salamanca, Festival ATempo de Caracas, Foro Internacional de Nueva Música in México, and Festival Musical de Santo Domingo. Recent prizes for his artistic talents include “Musici Mojanesi” Composition Prize in Italy (2009), “Jaycees 72” as Outstanding Youth, recognition by the Ministry of Culture’s “Cultural Personalities” and by *Diario Libre* as “Man of the Year” in the Dominican Republic.

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Nicolás Giordano Pisano (violin/viola)

Born in 1981 in Montevideo, Nicolás Giordano began playing the violin at age 6. His family has supported his choice of a classical music career and made sacrifices so he could pursue his studies, often outside his native country, which lacks violin teachers. In Uruguay, Nicolás studied under Julio Levinas at Escuela Municipal de Música, in Madrid at Conservatorio Profesional de Música “Joaquín Turina” and Conservatorio del Escorial under Fernando Rius, and Indiana University (Bloomington, IN) under Mauricio Fuks where he took Master Classes in violin and chamber music with Menaham Pressler, Geörgy Sébok, Franco Gulli, Mauricio Fuks, Ilya Kaler, Marco Rizzi, Luis Gonzalez Uriol, Manfred Kramer and Janós Starker. In 2002, he obtained his Masters in Music Performance under Andras Czifra and Gordan Nikolic at Rotterdams Conservatorium in The Netherlands. He was designated by President of UNESCO, Federico Mayor Zaragoza, as “UNESCO Young Artist for Peace.”

Nicolás was concertmaster of Jose Artigas Youth Orchestra (1996 to 2000), performing as a soloist at Espacio Cultural de la Spezia, Teatro Macció de San José, Automovil Club del Uruguay (all 1998) and Teatro Gorlero (2004). He was twice soloist with OSSODRE (Uruguay National Symphony Orchestra) under Mtro. Nicolas Rauss (2006), Chamber Orchestra of Xalapa (Mexico) under Alfredo Hernández, CODARTS chamber orchestra under Roberto Beltran (Holland), and YOA Orchestra of the Amiercas (Le Palais Montcalm, Québec, Canada) under Carlos Miguel Prieto (2009). In 2005, he represented Uruguay in the newly formed Orquesta Sinfónica Juvenil Latinamericana under Claudio Abbado in Caracas, Venezuela. In July 2007, he participated in Brazil’s Festival Internacional de Música Campos do Jordão. From 2003-2005, he was a member of Amsterdam Symphony Orchestra and from 2006-2009 a member of Rotterdams Kamer Orkest.

Nicolás has been a member YOA Orchestra of the Americas since 2003 where he has worked under distinguished conductors Carlos Miguel Prieto, Plácido Domingo, Isaac Karabtchevsky, Valery Gergiev, Gustavo Dudamel and Kent Nagano. He was concertmaster during YOA’s 2004 Mexico Tour, for a U.S.-Mexico Chamber Program “Music Along El Camino Real” in 2005 and “White House Conference on the Americas” Chamber Program in Washington, DC in 2007.

Nicolás Giordano was one of the first YOA musicians to be deeply moved by outreach programs to underserved audiences while on tour. From that experience, he created *Sembrando Talentos Uruguay* in 2003 to teach and perform music with underserved youth in his native country, which he continues to this day. Now established, with funding from corporate sponsors, cultural institutions Mozarteum and UNESCO, and municipal, national and international governments, including United States Embassy in Montevideo, Nicolás invites 6 to 8 YOA musicians several times a year to teach and perform in *Sembrando Talentos* Music Camps for Uruguayan children and youth.

He is currently a member of Orquesta Filarmónica de Montevideo. He also performs chamber recitals in Uruguay, Spain, Holland, United States, Argentina and Mexico. He is former violinist of Tango quintets *Passion for Tango* and *Bandola Zurdo* with whom he recorded numerous CD’s.