

ORLANDO CELA

CONDUCTOR

Professional Profile

Experienced conductor/ flutist / educator with extensive contemporary music experience, has led university, community, and professional ensembles, both choral and instrumental, in the US and abroad. Engaging rehearsal approach; proven ability to recruit and motivate students. Has arranged 100+ pieces for various vocal and instrumental ensembles and premiered 20+ works. Additional performance experience as flutist; has also taught conducting, chamber music, history, instrumental lessons, and theory classes.

Music Director and Assistant Conductor Positions

Lowell Chamber Orchestra, Music Director and Founder, Lowell, MA, 2019 - present

- Conduct rehearsals and concerts of a professional orchestra of variable size (depending on concert)
- Produce four to six concerts per season, including two educational events.
- Perform repertoire that includes works from the Baroque to today, including works by living composers, mostly world or regional premieres
- Record albums on an ongoing basis
- Oversee all aspects of production, including fundraising, personnel hiring, music rental, promotion and advertising, and more
- Identify and invite guest soloists and featured composers
- Produce partnerships with other performing and presenting organizations

Arlington Philharmonic Orchestra, Music Director, Arlington, MA, 2016 - present

- Conduct a 70-member orchestra in weekly rehearsals and five annual concerts, including some works with chorus
- Select repertoire for a five concert season, including a pops concert, a family concert, and a holiday concert, some of them with chorus participation
- Work together with the choir director in planning joint participation during the season
- Identify and invite guest soloists as needed
- Judge the annual concerto composition and select two for inclusion in two of the programs
- Plan outreach and fundraising events, as needed
- Work with board and different committees in the planning of concerts and other events
- Created a series of educational videos for Arlington Community Television, as well as online, exploring different works

Juventas New Music Ensemble, Assistant Music Director, Boston, MA, 2014 - 2018

- Conduct, as needed, an expandable seven member ensemble
- Advise the artistic director on repertoire for a four-concert season
- Perform experimental contemporary music, encompassing from solo works to chamber operas and ballets, including music with electronics, puppets, and robots
- Coordinate the ensemble's yearly call for scores, including distributing scores to judges, being head of the judging panel, notifying winners, advising runner-ups on changes to the music that has been provided
- Arrange rehearsals times and spaces
- Assist with publicity and outreach programs

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Governor's School of North Carolina, Conductor, Winston-Salem, NC, 2011 - 2019

- Conduct a 53 member orchestra of exceptionally talented high-school students in rehearsals six times a week, and two to three performances within five weeks, including some choral works
- Perform works post 1900 by Debussy, Penderecki, Stravinsky, Prokofiev, Schoenberg, Britten, Ginastera, Webern, Lutosławski, and others
- Performed US premiere every season by composers including Salvatore Sciarrino, Rebecca Saunders, Hector Parra, John Adams, Alwynn Pritchard, Bernhard Lang, Renée Baker
- Arranged for composer residencies to work with the students every season
- Teach one course in music history and music appreciation focused on influential musical trends of the twentieth century, tying these to social changes at the time, creating lively relevant discussions that connect art with history
- Taught classes in contemporary improvisation for students to explore uncommon sounds with their instruments, and guide them to use them creatively to form improvised works
- Lead staff of 4 faculty members and 2 Teaching Assistant Counselors to assist with all duties

Yamawaki Chamber Orchestra, Founder and Music Director, Newton, MA, 2004 - 10

- Created teaching orchestra for 23 retired amateur musicians
- Conducted weekly rehearsals and two performances per year
- Arranged 20 works specifically for the ensemble
- Organized performances for community members at local retirement homes, schools, and hospitals
- Successfully recruited guest performers and composers to work with the orchestra

All Newton Music School Orchestra, Music Director, Newton, MA, 2002 - 04

- Conducted weekly rehearsals and two yearly performances
- Wrote arrangements, to adapt works by various composers, to needs and level of students
- Used anecdotes and personal stories about the composer and the pieces to inspire and motivate students
- Recruited one to three new members per year
- Taught private flute lessons to students of different ages and levels

New York State School for the Arts Chorus, Assistant Conductor, Fredonia, NY, 2000 - 01

- Conducted 75 member SATB high-school chorus in rehearsals five days a week, twice daily
- Conducted sectionals, using interactive learning tools including memorization and ear-training games
- Taught courses in music theory and music appreciation using small group problem solving and research activities
- Provided conductor with necessary support including, rehearsal sectional scheduling, program writing, and singing and performing with the choir

Higher Education Positions

Berklee College of Music, Assistant Professor of Conducting, Boston, MA, 2016 - present

- Teach three conducting classes at the intermediate and advanced level each term, of classes ranging from 4 to 14 students, both in choral and orchestral disciplines
- Teach private students each term
- Plan a semester long curriculum for each class according to their level
- Find and edit excerpts from the orchestral repertoire to provide students with exercises to develop specific musical and technical skills.

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- Provide the students with a list of audiovisual media on the topic of conducting, to enhance the development of critical thinking
- Create examination methods to evaluate the students progress and address any deficiency in their development as conductors

Randolph College, Conductor, Chorus and Orchestra, Lynchburg, VA, 2014

Taught chorus and orchestra, conducting courses, flute lessons

Orchestral

- Conducted weekly chamber orchestra rehearsals for performance of Stravinsky, Ives, Bartok, and a world premiere by Maxwell Dulaney
- Coached the orchestra in the production of the latest extended techniques, being able to demonstrate them in every instrument
- Taught conducting courses to undergraduate students

Choral

- Conduct 16 member SATB choir in rehearsals twice a week for two performances
- Repertoire: Harrison, Cage, Bach, Hildegard, traditional music from Sweden, USA and Venezuela, and with orchestra: music by JS Bach. All in original languages: German, Spanish, Latin, English, with an introduction to International Phonetic Language
- Taught introduction to International Phonetic Language
- Improved reading through learning of neumes and shape-notes, incorporating the full harmonies and text from the start of rehearsals
- Use gibberish song and music of Pauline Oliveiros and John Cage, to help improve rhythm, diction, breath support, , ensemble listening, and dynamic range
- Designed a specialized unique set of warm-ups specifically tailored for to the size and expertise of the ensemble

Virginia Episcopal School, Conductor, Lynchburg, VA, 2014

- Conducted weekly rehearsals of a 17 member chamber orchestra, and two concerts per semester including music of Corelli, Purcell, Burton, and music of the season
- Started joint program with Randolph College, bringing the Virginia Episcopal Students - high school - to a college environment, expanding both groups
- Arranged repertoire suitable for the group's size and instrumentation

Ningbo University, Conductor, Chorus and Orchestra, Ningbo, China, 2013 - 14

Taught two conducting classes of 45 undergraduate students each, and private lessons in various wind instruments to four students

Orchestral

- Created and launched the orchestral and wind ensemble programs, which led to the first chorus/orchestra collaboration
- Conducted the newly formed orchestra in 3 performances, with weekly rehearsals, music by Mozart,
- Purcell, Ives, Handel, premieres by José Elizondo and Maxwell Dulaney
- Brought the first international guest composer to the university to work with the students

Choral

- Conducted 54 member SATB chorus in weekly rehearsals, performing music by Handel, Earl Kim (both in English), and songs in Mandarin, Spanish, English
- Created warm-ups for the ensemble designed to improve diction in foreign languages, practice a healthy vocal technique, develop a strong sense of ensemble singing

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- Taught historical and stylistic aspects using contemporary analogies to Chinese culture

Flute

- Taught private lessons in flute, clarinet and saxophone to five students
- Created a 6 member wind ensemble; arranged music for the same
- Organized first instrumental recital with the woodwind students, performing works by Kummer, Bach, Mozart, Rachmaninov, Purcell, and Elizondo

University of Massachusetts Dartmouth, Conductor, North Dartmouth, MA, 2005 - 06

Taught chorus and private flute lessons; created informal courses to complement the students' curriculum

Choral

- Conducted 35 member SATB chorus in two performances and twice-a-week rehearsals, performing works of Britten, Bernstein, PDQ Bach, and English and Italian Madrigals in original languages: Italian, Hebrew and English
- Conducted a small 10 member chamber chorus in two performances and twice-a-week rehearsals, works by Purcell, and arrangements of Cole Porter, Gershwin, and Berlin
- Arranged for instrumental ensemble to perform Purcell's "Dido and Æneas" in oratorio style: first performance of an opera by the university's choir
- Created and taught informal class for chorus members on their repertoire using anecdotes and context to help students make meaningful connections to the works

Flute

- Teach private flute lessons weekly to three students
- Coached a senior student in the preparation of her graduation recital, including repertoire from classical repertoire, jazz, and rock (Jethro Tull)

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Guest Conducting Experience

I/O New Music Ensemble, Williams College, Williamstown, 2011
Marquette Symphony Orchestra, Marquette, MI, 2009
Northern Michigan University Orchestra, Marquette, MI, 2009
New Music Brandeis, Brandeis University, Waltham, MA, 2004 - 09
Scituate Choral Arts Society, Scituate, MA, 2005
Cambridge Symphony Orchestra, Cambridge, MA, 2002

Guest Lecturing Experience

UMass Amherst, Amherst, MA
Worcester Polytechnic Institute, Worcester, MA
Central Conservatory of Music (Beijing, China)
Tulane University, New Orleans, LA
UC Berkeley, Berkeley, CA
Staatliche Hochschule für Musik und Darstellende Kunst Stuttgart (Germany)
DePauw University, Greencastle, IN
Berklee College of Music, Boston, MA
Shanghai Normal University (China)
New England Conservatory, Boston, MA
Brandeis University, Waltham, MA
UC Davis, Davis, CA
University of New Orleans, New Orleans, LA
Hong Kong Flute Academy (Hong Kong)
Charlotte New Music Festival, Charlotte, NC

Recordings

Miniature Symphonies, Navona Records, expected summer 2022
The Suite, Navona Records, January 2021
Shadow Etchings, Ravello Records, February 2018
Juventas New Music Ensemble, 2016
Project "Extended," FlyNote Productions, 2013
New Lullaby, Six String Sound, 2010
The Complete Boismortier Concerti, op. 15, Self Release, 2010
World Winds, Willow Flute Ensemble, 2009
Aflame in Flight, Centaur Records, 2005
Penetrations, Sachimay Records, 2002
With For Intoned, John LaTartara, 1999 Solo Flute, Self Release, 1998

Selected Orchestral Premieres

- Greyed Rainbow, by Dana Kaufman (World Premiere), MA, 2022
- Three Sisters, by Anna Clyne (MA premiere), MA, 2021
- Monodie XXV, by Bernhard Lang (World Premiere), 2017
- Third Threnody, by Renée Baker (World Premiere), MA, 2017
- Rewind, by Anna Clyne (North Carolina Premiere), NC, 2016
- Flying Banner by Liza Lim (American Premiere), MA, 2015
- The Old Harp, 3rd revision (World Premiere), NC, 2015
- Estampas Mexicanas by José Elizondo (World Premiere), NC, 2014
- World Enough by Alwynne Pritchard (American Premiere), NC, 2014

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- The Old Harp by Maxwell Dulaney, Beijing China, 2014
- Stratum by Rebecca Saunders, (American Premiere), NC, 2013
- Blast! by Andrew List, (World Premiere of Revised Version), NC, 2013
- InFall by Hector Parra, (American Premiere), NC, 2012
- Autoritratto nella Notte by Salvatore Sciarrino, (American Premiere), NC, 2011
- Cyan by Ashley Rose Fure, (World Premiere), MI, 2009
- Hisakatano by Yoko Nakatani, (World Premiere), MA, 2004
- Piece for Violin and Instruments by Ralph Shapey, (CT Premiere), CT, 2003
- Lohengrin, by Salvatore Sciarrino, (American Premiere), MA, 2002

Review Highlights

“Dynamic energy and charm.”

— The Boston Musical Intelligencer, 2017

“The performance given by Orlando Cella of Varèse’s Density 21.5 for solo flute was in a different category. His reading was especially lyrical, [...] a brief episode that lingered in memory after it ended.”

— The Boston Musical Intelligencer, 2015

“The problem with that degree of concentration and exposure is that the resultant performance can be rather dry and fussy. What we heard performed by flutist Orlando Cella and bassoonist Neil Fairbairn was anything but; in fact, it was possibly the best we’ve heard, live or on recording, full of both perky, bustling movement”

— The Boston Musical Intelligencer, 2010

“ an exciting virtuosic display”

— Worcester Telegram & Gazette, 2010

“... absolute solidity and soaring imagination [...] from the Soria Chamber Players and conductor Orlando Cella”

— The Boston Globe, 2002

“the Soria Chamber Players under the direction of Orlando Cella presented themselves as a group possessing high ability and talent”

“a magnificent concert”

“the concert was excellent”

— The MIT Tech, 2000

Education

New England Conservatory, Boston, MA

Master of Music in Conducting, 2000

Master of Music in Flute Performance, 1999

DePauw University, Greencastle, IN

Bachelor of Music in Flute Performance, 1997

Hochschule für Musik und Darstellender Kunst, Vienna, Austria, Semester abroad, 1994

Principal Instructors

Tamara Brooks, Choral Conducting, New England Conservatory of Music

Frank Battisti, Wind Ensemble Conducting, New England Conservatory of Music

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Paula Robison, Flute
Anne Reynolds, Flute
Barbara Gisler-Haase, Flute

Awards

Selected as one of thirty-two people to participate in the first round of the Dédalo Ensemble International Conducting Competition, Brescia, Milan, Italy, March 2017
Third Place, The American Prize, Conductor, Professional Division, February 2017
Finalist, The American Prize, Conductor, Community Orchestra Division, February 2017
Winner, The American Prize, Vytautas Marijosius Memorial Award, Youth Division, May, 2017
Winner, The American Prize, Conductor, Youth Division, April 2017
Second Place, London Classical Soloists Conducting Competition, January, 2017
Second Place, The American Prize, Ernst Bacon Memorial Award in Excellence of performance of American Music, Youth Division, December, 2016
Selected as one of sixty people to participate in the first round of the Atlantic Coast International Conducting Competition, Esposende, Portugal, August 2016
Selected as one of eight participants of the St. Petersburg Chamber Philharmonic International Masterclass with Mark Stringer, St. Petersburg, Russia, May 2016
Barlow Endowment LDS Commission, in Conjunction with Peter McMurray, 2008
Scholarship, New England Conservatory, Boston, MA, 2000, 1997
Winner, DePauw University Concerto Competition, Greencastle, IN, 1997:
Mozart, Concerto in D major, K. 314
Winner, DePauw University Concerto Competition, Greencastle, IN, 1996:
Reinecke, Flute Concerto in D major, Op. 283
Winner, DePauw University Concerto Competition, Greencastle, IN, 1995:
Demerssemann, Sixième Solo de Concert
Winner, DePauw University Concerto Competition, Greencastle, IN, 1994:
Khachaturian, Flute Concerto
Scholarship, DePauw University, Greencastle, IN, 1994 - 97

Languages

Fluent in English, Spanish; Functional Mandarin, French, Italian, German

Other Skills/Focus Areas

Sibelius Music Engraving Software
Notion Conducting Software
Experienced public speaker, teacher and fundraiser
Committed interests in social justice, sustainability, world literature

References provided upon request