



OAcademy
Music
Conservatory

ANNUAL REPORT 2025



Since our foundation, OAcademy has been driven by a belief that exceptional musical talent exists everywhere,

ready to be discovered, nurtured, and amplified.

We've challenged the idea that world-class music education must be confined to traditional conservatories in major cultural hubs.

We've pioneered a new model that breaks down barriers and equips emerging artists to enter the professional world confidently. Through innovative digital learning and in-person residencies, we've proven that musical excellence can flourish anywhere when opportunity meets ambition.

Looking at our achievements to date, we see opportunities to scale our impact and redefine how musicians train and lead. As the world becomes increasingly connected, the need for authentic cultural bridges grows stronger.

Music remains one of humanity's most powerful means of connection, and we are perfectly positioned to harness its potential.

The musicians we serve today will become tomorrow's principals, maestras, and cultural ambassadors. They will carry forward artistic excellence and an understanding of music's vital role in social transformation. These future leaders will use their platforms to foster inclusion, celebrate diversity, and drive positive change in our interconnected world.

2025 AT A GLANCE

Through innovative curriculum and strategic partnerships, we have focussed on creating pathways where none existed before, transforming how the next generation of musicians develops, connects, and launches their careers.

→ **230** faculty members

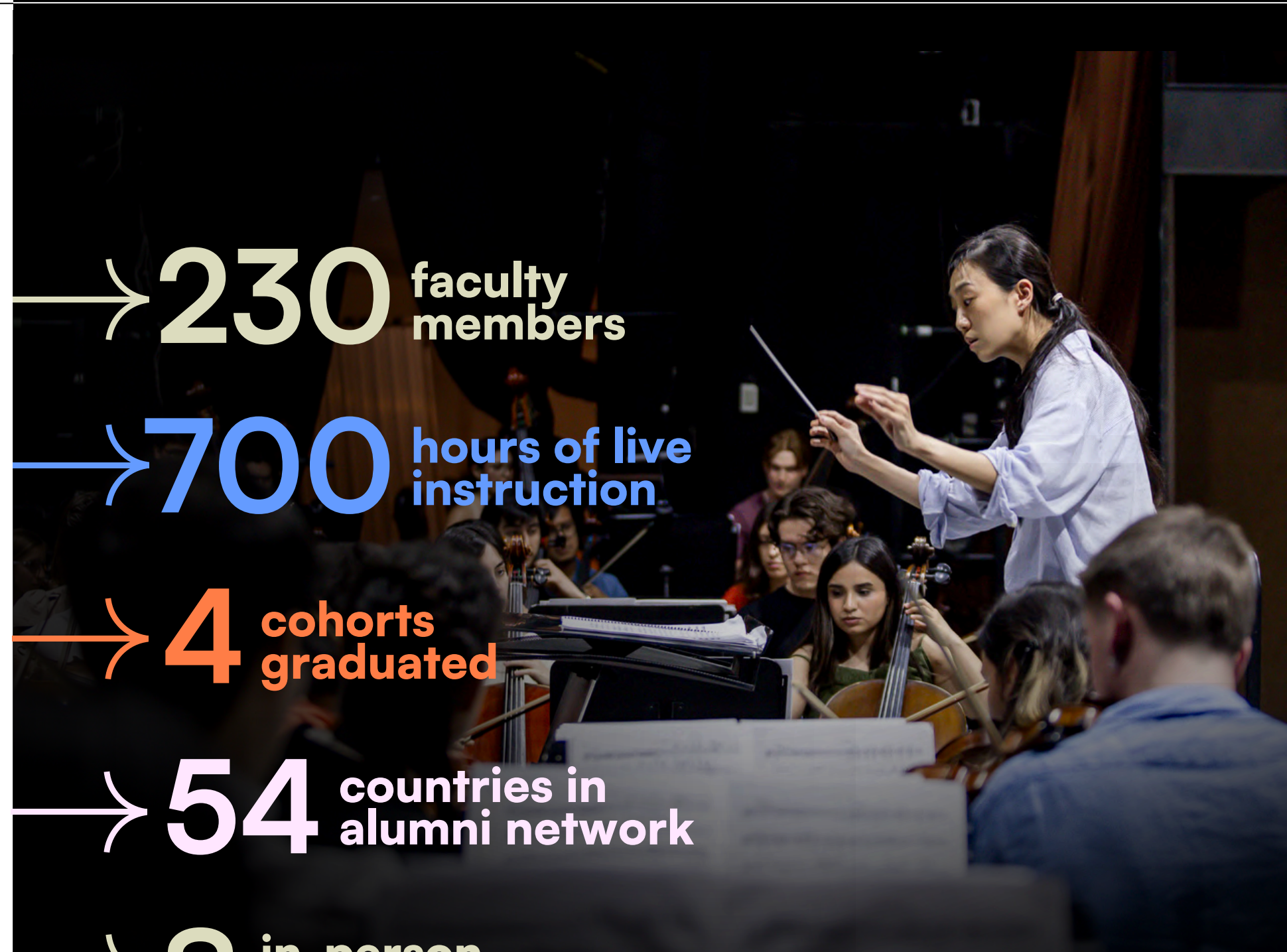
→ **700** hours of live instruction

→ **4** cohorts graduated

→ **54** countries in alumni network

→ **8** in-person residencies

→ **∞** new connections



ACADEMICS

The OAcademy curriculum provides Fellows with the tools to perform at their highest level and succeed not only in meeting the present demands of the sector, but in navigating and responding to the ever-shifting needs of its future.

The four pillars of our teaching are:

- Musical Knowledge & Performance Skills
- Communication & Leadership
- Industry Readiness
- Resilience & Well-being

→ **98%** would recommend OAcademy to their friends*
*exit survey

“My Studio Head has helped me win 3 jobs so far”.

“The faculty were exceptional – not only experts in their craft but kind and generous”.

Orchestra Institute Fellows

RESIDENCIES

We have completed our evolution from digital-first to hybrid learning, offering residency programs that bring our community together in transformative ways.

Each of our programs has successfully delivered an in-person component, from Composers' gathering in Maryland, to Pianists' residencies in Europe and the USA, Conductors' tailored placements with global orchestras, to the annual orchestra residency culminating with public performance.



This year in Mexico musicians from over 20 countries worked with students from Monterrey, under Carlos Miguel Prieto's leadership and with world-class faculty.

→ **98%** **would absolutely recommend the experience**

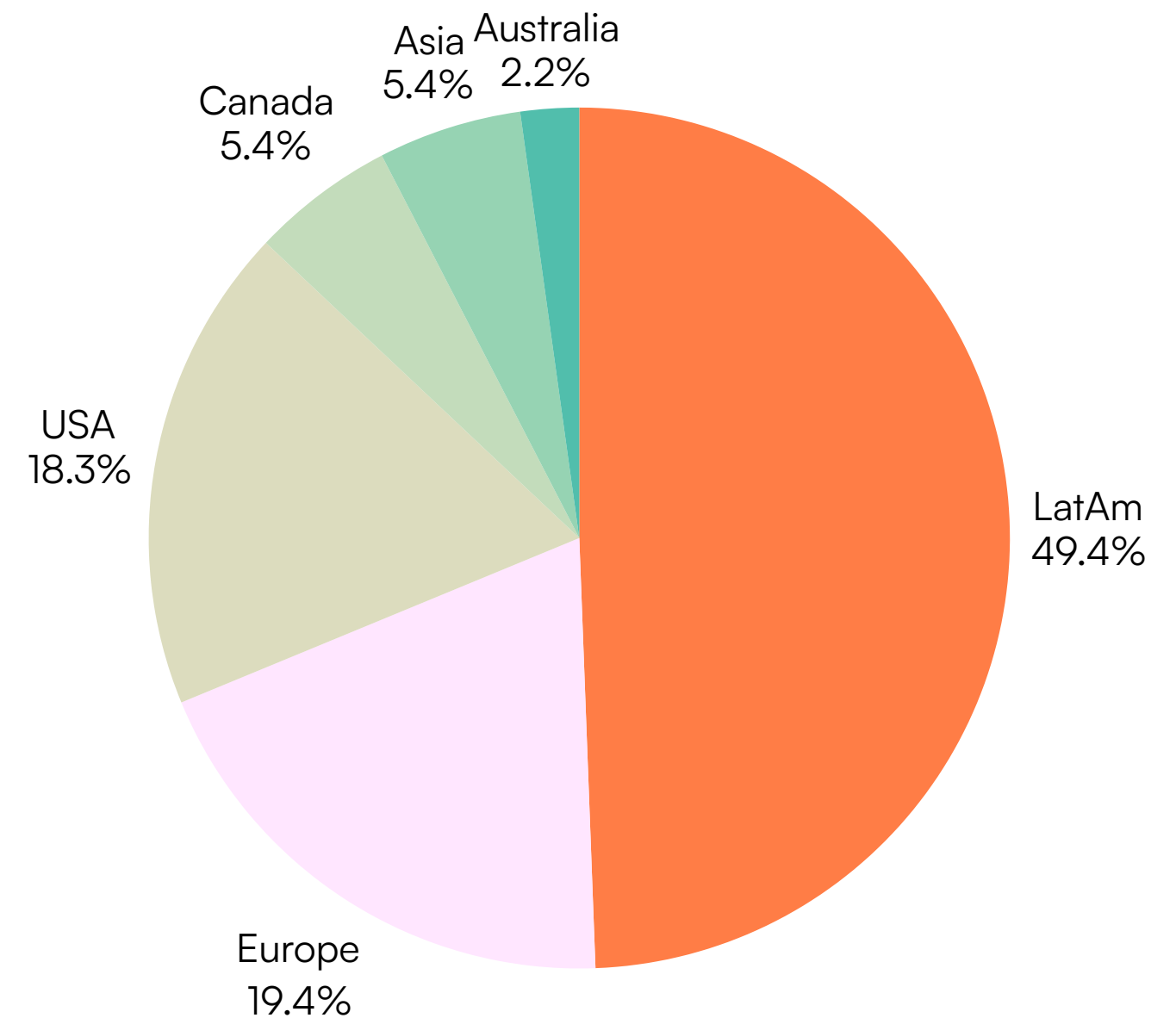
ALUMNI

For another consecutive year, hundreds of exceptional musicians auditioned for OAcademy's Artist Diploma. From an international pool of applicants, we selected cohorts that represent the diversity of global musical talent.

Our community reflects the inclusive future of classical music

→ balanced gender representation, emerging professionals beginning at age 18, and artists with an average age of 29 who bring rich life experience to their musical development

→ **We have expanded our global reach while maintaining accessibility**





Orchestra Institute 2025



Diego Alberto Acosta
Mexico



Jorge Chen
Panama



María Belén Díaz Rojas
Peru



Alenka Eržen
Slovenia



Hyewon Jeong
Korea



Florencia López Mena
Chile



Julie Jiwoo Park
Korea



Luisana Pérez
Venezuela



Melanie Rodríguez Díaz
Dominican Republic



Lucy Rubin
USA



Kaïla Stephanos
Canada



Elizabeth Stern
USA



Stefan Bulyha
Ukraine



Arlette Camino
Chile



Juan Sebastián Ospina
Colombia



Daniela Pinto
Costa Rica



Fabio Sánchez
Panama



Alan Sun
USA



Julian Cortes
Colombia



George Mateo Cruz
Dominican Republic



Ciara Wheeler
Canada



Brisa de Paula
USA



José Ignacio Giacomello
Argentina



Eithan Solano
Peru



Gerardo Díaz
Mexico



Alberto Arias
Venezuela



Emil Yavorskyi
Ukraine



Yael Cohen
USA



Isabella Geeves
Australia



Joni Taskinen
Finland



Manuel Valério
Portugal



Ricardo Hernandez
Dominican Republic



Robert Scarff
USA



Alexsandro Stanley
Brazil



Mariana Diez Canseco
Peru



Cassandra Leshchyshyn
Canada



Julio Israel Estrada
Mexico



Daniela Herrera
Colombia



Juan Felipe Loaiza
Colombia



Cesar Mendez
Mexico



Federico Moujan
Argentina



Luisa Quintero
Colombia



Alisson Santos
Brasil



Juan Pablo Andraus
Colombia



María Paulina Casas
Mexico



Esteban Madriz
Costa Rica



Laura Parra Giraldo
Colombia



Victoria Witmer
USA



Francisco Hernández
Mexico



Abraham Mansilla
Chile



Cristian Mazo
Colombia



Gustavo Meneses
Colombia



Alondra Niño Abas
Venezuela



Carlos Valdez
Peru



Ramón Altamirano
Chile



Piero Arcos
Peru



Katsuaki Arakawa
USA



Jiae Lee
Korea



Abraão Sales
Brazil



Tamara Solano
Peru



Marco Antonio Castro
Mexico



Huitzi Cruz
Mexico



Alejandra de Ita López
Mexico



María Paula Loría
Costa Rica



Erendira Morales
Mexico



Renée Qin
Canada



Grecia Villarreal
Mexico



Núria Vizcaino
Spain



Dalí Campos Cervantes
Mexico



João Melo
Brazil



Natalia Ramírez
Mexico



Gamaliel Roa
Chile



Paul Robeson
USA



Eden Chen
USA



Gastón Frydman
Argentina



Onutė Gražinytė
Lithuania



Asiya Korepanova
USA



Jonathan Mak
Canada



Kasparas Mikužis
Lithuania



Élisabeth Pion
Canada



Gabrielė Sutkutė
Lithuania



Joyce Yu
Hong Kong



Iliia Diakov
Georgia



Kristine Dizon
Canada



Yonatan Dvir
Israel



Bartu Elci-Ozsoy
France



Bianca Maretti
Brazil



Carlos Mendoza
Mexico



Jinhee Park
Korea



Leanna Puttick
Australia



Costa Simpson
New Zealand



Lucia Svecova
UK



Jesse Wong
USA



Tammy Yi
USA



J. Andrés Ballesteros
USA



Lewis Chung
Australia



Jasmine Galante
USA



Gabriel A. Gallegos
USA



Nacho González
Uruguay



Chris Neiner
USA



Daniel Regnier
Canada



Ethan Resnik
USA



Telmo Sans Ruiz
Spain



Katie Semro
USA



Xingyue Song
China



Derek Weagle
USA

CURRICULUM PARTNERS

 CONCERTGEBOUW ORKEST

The Metropolitan Opera

 NATIONAL ARTS CENTRE
CENTRE NATIONAL DES ARTS
Canada is our stage. Le Canada en scène.

 Bard Conservatory

PATRONATO
LA ■ SUPERIOR

 Association Européenne des
Conservatoires, Académies de
Musique et Musikhochschulen

OUR GLOBAL PARTNER NETWORK

Transforming higher music education is not a task for a single organization. It happens through meaningful combined efforts of many players - policy-makers, professional orchestras and their leadership, talent management agencies, music academies, the fourth sector.

OAcademy is deeply grateful and honoured to be part of the ecosystem that contributes to improving the conservatory training for the generations of musicians on the rise, regardless of location and circumstance.

OAcademy has been made possible by innovative organizations that took a leap of faith in the power of transforming lives through access to training. They joined to share their know-how or supported tens of thousands of dollars-worth of scholarships.

Fundación Sinfonía, Dominican Republic
Fundación de Orquestas Juveniles e Infantiles, Chile
Fundación Bolívar Davivienda, Colombia
Fundación Azteca, Mexico
Escuela Superior de Música y Danza de Monterrey, Mexico
Tierra 47 Harp Festival
Sinfonía por el Perú, Peru
National Philharmonic, Panama
OVO - Orquestra de Formação e Transformação, Brazil
Mozarteum Brasileiro
Antigua & Barbuda Youth Symphony Orchestra
OSM Concours
National Arts Center of Canada
National Youth Orchestra of Ireland
Bard College

TEAM

Strategy: Mark Gillespie

Management: Ewa Senger

Academic Direction: Cayenna Ponchione-Bailey

Learning Experience: Joana Boechat

OAcademy Artist Diploma Programs

Orchestra Institute: Cayenna Ponchione-Bailey

Piano Lab: Sam McElroy & Gosia Kuczmowska

Composing Studio: Erin Busch

Conducting Fellowship: Scott Wilson

Finance: Cayla Inserra

Development: Ana Aparicio

Residencies: Gosia Kuczmowska

Communications: Adriana Ruiz García

Academic Operations: Marco Teruel

Artistic Liaison: Agata Cieplinska

COUNCIL

Rafael Alberto

Managing Director, OVO — Orquestra de Formação e Transformação | Brazil

Guiomar Blanco

Head of European Strategy, Arabella Arts | Spain

Pedro Burelli

Managing Director, B&V Holdings C.A. | Venezuela & USA

Leone Buyse

Flute Professor & Former Principal Flute, Boston Symphony | USA

Ricardo Castro

Founder, NEOJIBA; Piano Professor, Haute École de Musique | Brazil & Switzerland

Nikki Chooi

Concertmaster, Buffalo Philharmonic Orchestra & Santa Fe Opera | USA & Canada

Mark Churchill

Founder, El Sistema USA | USA

Juan Antonio Cuéllar

CEO, National Symphony Orchestra | Colombia

Allison Franzetti

Grammy and Latin Grammy Nominated Pianist | USA

Mark Hampson

Founding Member, Mahler Chamber Orchestra | Germany

Ilmari Hopkins

Principal Cello, Stavanger Symphony | Norway

Brian Hurst

Founder, StoryTech Immersive | USA

John Kulback

Partner, Loeb & Loeb LLP | USA

Amanda MacBlane

Managing Director, Digital & Creative, 21C Media Group | USA

Anna Rosa Mari

CEO, National Youth Orchestra of Ireland | Ireland

Holly Mathieson

Software Development Engineer, Amazon; Artistic Advisor, Director | UK, Australia & Canada

Mauro Maur

Former Principal Trumpet, Orchestra of the Opera House in Rome | Italy

Rolf Meijer-Werner

Founder, BdV Behrens Group | Germany & Venezuela

Hilda Ochoa-Brillembourg

Founder, Strategic Investment Group | Venezuela & USA

Carlos Miguel Prieto

Music Director, North Carolina Symphony & Orquesta Sinfónica de Minería | USA & Mexico

Martin Schippers

Tenor & Bass Trombone, Royal Concertgebouw Orchestra | Netherlands

Cecilia Schultz

Philanthropist | Mexico & USA

Dominic Seldis

Principal Bass, Royal Concertgebouw Orchestra | Netherlands

Kelly Simmons

Emerging Artist Programs Manager, National Arts Centre | Canada

Barron M. Tenny

Former Executive Vice President, Ford Foundation | USA

Elisa Vegas

Artistic Director, Grand Mariscal of Ayacucho Symphony Orchestra | Venezuela

Deborah Wanderley

Citizen Musician by Chicago Symphony Orchestra, NEOJIBA | Brazil

