



Orchestra
OF THE Americas
Group



QUARTERLY NEWS

JUNE 2026

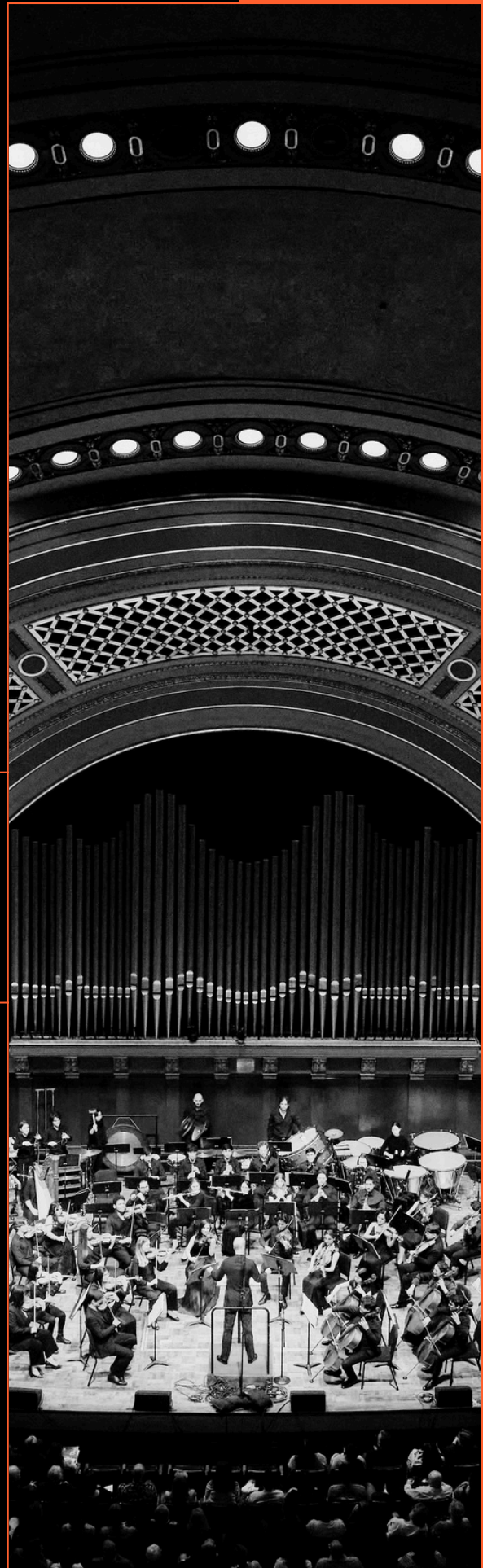
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Global Arts Prize 2026



Global Leaders
Institute for Arts
Innovation

For international recognition of innovation in the world of culture.

The Global Arts Prize celebrates artists and creative ventures spearheading an innovative approach to the relevance of the arts in our time. Each year, \$60,000 USD is awarded between two winners for their contributions to the future of culture.

Láolú wins BlueSky Award

Láolú is awarded **The 2026 BlueSky Global Arts Prize** — selected by public input and a jury of leaders from the creative sector, this visionary artist transforms Yoruba sacred tradition into a living visual language across art, body, and culture.



A former human rights lawyer in Nigeria, his work reconnects contemporary audiences to African visual heritage in a way that feels both ancient and radically modern, turning memory and spirituality into living form, and is featured from Beyoncé's *Lemonade* to collaborations with Nike, the Grammy Museum, and major public installations worldwide.

Iberia Summit



Global Arts MBA brings 2026 Innovation Summit to Spain

The Global Leaders Institute convened its 2026 Innovation Summit in Cáceres, Spain, marking the first time the annual gathering took place in the Extremadura region.

WATCH THE HIGHLIGHTS



Hosted in partnership with **The Cáceres European Capital of Culture 2031 Candidacy (ECOC 2031)** and **The Cáceres Town Hall**, the Summit brought together GLI Fellows and local arts and education entrepreneurs in a week of collaborative exchange, advancing the sustainable development of the region's creative ecosystem and deepening conversations on creative leadership, enterprise, and lasting community impact.





Gateway to Greatness Awards

The OA Group's 2026 Gateway to Greatness Gala brought together leaders, philanthropists, artists, and advocates for an inspiring evening dedicated to expanding opportunity for the next generation. Through the generosity of our supporters, the Gala raised critical funds to advance scholarships, leadership development, and artistic training for emerging musicians, entrepreneurs, and cultural innovators across the Americas and beyond.

Proceeds support transformative initiatives, including the OAcademy Music Conservatory and the Global Leaders Institute, helping talented leaders access world-class education, mentorship, and opportunities to create lasting impact in their communities and professions.



Sheila C. Johnson
Entrepreneur & Philanthropist
BET Co-Founder



Coralie Charriol
Luxury Business Leader
Charriol CEO & Creative Director



María Corina Machado
Nobel Peace Prize Laureate
Human Rights Advocate



Kris Bowers
Composer and Filmmaker
Academy Award Winner



Adrienne Arsht
Businesswomen & Philanthropist
Arsht Center for the Performing Arts



Monica & Leonardo Lawson
Gala Chairs
FIFA 1904 & Bond Creative MGMT



Gateway to Greatness Awards



raised for
Artist Fund
\$350K



Faculty Appointments



**World-Renowned Soloists Join
OAcademy 2026 Fellows**



OAcademy's Masterclass program welcomed some of the most celebrated soloists in classical music this season, among them **Hilary Hahn**, **Martin Fröst**, **Steven Isserlis**, and **Jasmine Choi**. Organized around three dimensions of artistic growth — orchestral artistry, principal artistry, and solo artistry — the Masterclasses are a cornerstone of the Artist Diploma experience, connecting Fellows with artists who have shaped the field at the highest level.

Working alongside top international soloists in real time, Fellows gained direct mentorship in their discipline. Cross-instrumental Q&A sessions extended that access further, offering rare, unfiltered insight into both the craft and the realities of a life in music.

OAcademy Orchestra Institute namesake Leon Spierer



Leon Spierer served as Head of Faculty of the Orchestra of the Americas for nearly two decades — a role that followed a distinguished thirty-year tenure as Concertmaster of the Berlin Philharmonic under Herbert von Karajan and Claudio Abbado.

Regarded as one of the foremost orchestral musicians and concertmasters of his era, he shaped generations of musicians and helped define the character and excellence of our orchestra.



Gabriela Ortiz's Antropolis receives its German premiere on the Orchestra of the Americas tour 2026

This August, the Orchestra of the Americas joins forces with the Penderecki Youth Orchestra for a shared European tour. Following a week-long residency, the two orchestras will perform at the Penderecki Center in Lustawice (Aug 8), Berlin Konzerthaus (Aug 10), and Kassel Stadthalle (Aug 11).

The Berlin concert features a landmark moment: the German premiere of Antropolis by three-time Grammy Award winner Gabriela Ortiz, performed by both orchestras under the baton of Carlos Miguel Prieto.



The Global Artist Diploma class of 2026 graduates

On July 1st, the Orchestra Institute, Conducting Fellowship, and Composing Fellows will gather for a joint graduation ceremony — the culmination of an intensive final month that included performance juries, industry pitches, and the recording of new compositions. Across three disciplines, 90 Fellows will receive their Artist Diplomas.



Chesapeake Recitals



Gabriela
Montero
at Prager



Jul 18

IBETWEEN WORLDS

Charles Yang | violin

[TICKETS](#)



Sep 19

HUMAN UNIVERSE

Hayato Summon | piano

[TICKETS](#)



Oct 17

CREATIO EX NIHILO

Gabriela Montero | piano

[TICKETS](#)

OAcademy Fellow News



SALLY MINGYAN YU

shortlisted for the **Siemens Hallé International Conductors Competition**



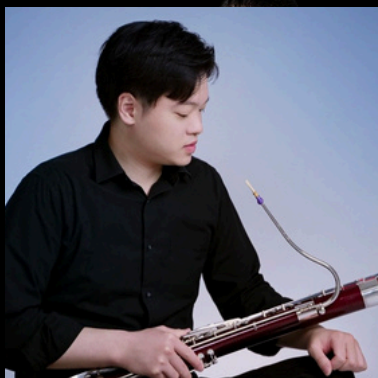
RAFAEL MÉNDEZ

wins the **New York Flute Club Young Artist Competition**



GABRIELĖ SUTKUTĖ

selected as a 2026/27 artist for the **Kirckman Concert Society**



TETSURO YAMADA

wins appointment with **Slovak Philharmonic Orchestra**



LEANNA PUTTICK

named a **Taki Alsop Conducting Fellowship mentee** for the 2026-2027 cycle



KORBINIAN KROL

selected for the Forum **Dirigieren Förderprogramm of the German Music Council**

Arts MBA Fellow News



Global Leaders
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MICHAEL BOBBITT

received the **Elizabeth Cochary Gross Stewardship of the Arts Award**



RICHARD CHWASTIAK

appointed **Director** of Cape Symphony Presents



KATHERINE MEADE

appointed **Education Specialist** at The Anne Frank Center USA



KIRIT MASCARENHAS

appointed **Foundations & Grants Officer** of the Canadian Opera Company



NAGHAM WEHBE

featured in **TEDx** on 'Listening is Leadership'



TAIANARA GOEDERT

winner of the **2026 Teaching Award** at McGill University

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your support can empower our work*

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