MIAMI MUSIC PROJECT
BIOS OF KEY PROGRAM PERSONNEL & STAFF

James Judd, Founding Artistic Director

James Judd’s previous directorships include Principal Guest Conductor of the Orchestre National de Lille in France and a groundbreaking 14 years as Music Director of the Florida Philharmonic Orchestra. Judd came to international attention as the Assistant Conductor of the Cleveland Orchestra, a post he accepted at the invitation of Lorin Maazel. Later he returned to Europe after being appointed Associate Music Director of the European Community Youth Orchestra by Claudio Abbado, an ensemble he continues to serve as an honorary Artistic Director. As music director of the New Zealand Symphony Orchestra, he brought the ensemble to a new level of visibility and international renown through appearances at the 2000 Summer Sydney Olympic Arts Festival, the 2003 Auckland International Arts Festival, the Osaka Festival of International Orchestras, as well as a specially televised Millennium Concert with Kiri Te Kanawa as soloist. He also led the orchestra on its first ever tour of the major concert halls of Europe, culminating with a debut appearance at the BBC Proms and the Concertgebouw in August, 2005. In North and South America he is a frequent and much-admired guest conductor, having appeared with the orchestras of St. Louis, Montreal, Cincinnati, Pittsburgh, Dallas, Seattle, Indianapolis, Utah, Vancouver and Ottawa.

Anna Pietraszko, Executive Director

Anna Pietraszko is an educator, arts executive, double-bassist, and music activist whose mission is to reestablish music’s central place in the development and education of young people. Pietraszko has been Executive Director of the Miami Music Project since January 2010 demonstrating exceptional energy, dedication, talent, and organizational ability. Additionally, she is the co-founder and chief financial officer of the annual Zywiec Trombone Festival, a lively event that gathers musicians and teachers of all ages to learn and perform for audiences in a remote, mountainous region of her native Poland. Anna earned her Master’s in Music Education from the Szymanowski Academy of Music in Katowice, Poland, and a Graduate Certificate Degree in Double Bass Performance from the University of Southern California, from which she received a full scholarship. Most recently, Pietraszko was awarded a grant offered by the Miami Foundation’s Miami Leaders program, which is designed to grow the leadership skills and administrative competencies of Miami-Dade County’s nonprofit leaders.
Abiram Brizuela, Program Director

Born in Caracas, Venezuela in a modest family of artists and musicians, Abiram was 5 years old he had his first experience with music within the National System of Youth and Children's Orchestras of Venezuela, also known as "El Sistema". It was through El Sistema Abiram started studying double bass and conducting. At the age of 18 Abiram was chosen to study in the School of Orchestra Conducting of the Simón Bolívar Conservatory of Music led by Maestro Miguel Ángel Monroy. Abiram is an award-winning composer and orchestra conductor. He has composed soundtracks of more than 28 theater and film productions, a feat which has brought him to win the most important award of the performing arts granted in Venezuela, the Municipal Theater Award. In 2010, Abiram moved to Miami, and currently serves as ESMIA Program Directo, managing chapter locations in Little Haiti and Doral. He truly enjoys creating symphony orchestras and providing musical education to underserved communities, ultimately, giving children in Miami the opportunity to have the same experience he had when he was a child in Venezuela. Abiram has also worked closely with Artistic Director James Judd as an assistant conductor of ESMIA Youth Orchestra.

Sarah Varughese, Operations Manager

Sarah has a Bachelor’s Degree in Business Management & International Studies from the University of Miami. She has been singing and playing classical piano since the age of eight, and has performed in many choirs, bands, musicals and youth retreats throughout the United States. She also serves as a mentor and has taught piano and vocal performance to children, high school and college students.

The arts and community development are some of Sarah’s many passions, along with business, economic and social development. She enjoys using artistic expression as a tool for developing impoverished communities in Miami and throughout the world. She also enjoys playing the piano, guitar, writing and recording her original music. Music has been an integral part of Sarah’s life since she was very young, allowing her to understand the invaluable impact it has upon the hearts and minds of children as they develop and grow. She believes that music education not only produces good musicians, but also passionate, hard-working, self-motivated, intelligent and deep thinkers. Her passion for music was nurtured within her through the support of her parents, schools and teachers. Thus, she desires that the children of the Miami Music Project receive the same avenues of growth and transformation that were available to her growing up.

Enide Dufresne, Communications & Development Manager

Music and education are Enide's passions. She enjoys meeting with like-minded musicians from different backgrounds to bring the joy of music to everyone. Enide has an Associates Degree in Music Performance from New World School of the Arts, and a Bachelor Degree in Sociology & International Studies from Northwestern University. She plays the viola, having studied under great musicians such as Werner Christof of the Mozarteam, Ab Sengupta of the Florida Philharmonic, and Richard Fleishman of New World School of the Arts.
MMP KEY TEACHING ARTISTS

Alex Berti, Lead Conductor & Double Bass instructor

Alex Berti was born in Venezuela where he began his musical studies at the age of five. At the age of...he joins the Venezuelan Youth Symphony Orchestra as a Double Bass player, and two years later, one of the most prestigious orchestras in South America: the Simon Bolivar Symphony Orchestra. With the Simon Bolivar, Alex has the opportunity to tour and perform in several of the most important concert halls of the world, Amsterdam’s Concertgebouw, Carnegie Hall in New York, Royal Festival Hall in London, Teatro de la Opera in Madrid, in New York, Royal Festival Hall in London, Teatro de la Opera in Madrid. In 1991 he becomes principal Double Bass of the Venezuelan Symphony Orchestra where he serves until he moves with his family to the United States in 1995. Through his extensive musical career, Alex has had the opportunity to participate in recognized international music festivals, like Tanglewood, Montpellier, and Trinidad, and to share the stage with important personalities, like Placido Domingo, Yo Yo Ma, Montserrat Caballet, Eduardo Mata, Jean Pierre Rampal, Paco de Lucia, Zubin Meta, and Arturo Sandoval, among others. Alex is also an active composer, Miami concert goers will be able to attend the US premier of his Clarinet Concerto as part of Miami Orchestra’s 2007-2008 season.

Michael Andrews, Cello instructor

Growing up in Wisconsin, Michael Andrews attended the University of Wisconsin and University of Illinois, where he studied with Gabriel Magyar of the Hungarian String Quartet. Following graduation he moved to Boston to study with George Neikrug. For five years Mr. Andrews played with the Orquesta Filarmónica de Caracas, Venezuela, taught at the orchestra’s conservatory and toured Puerto Rico and the Dominican Republic. While in Venezuela Mr. Andrews was hired by Jose Antonio Abreu to teach cello with “el Sistema.” Returning to the US he taught and performed at the Wausau Conservatory of Music, Wausau, Wisconsin. In Florida he has played in the Naples Philharmonic, Southwest Florida Philharmonic, Symphony of the Americas and Miami Symphony. In 1997 he founded the South Beach Chamber Ensemble and created the Music in Beautiful Spaces series of concerts in south Florida. He is currently the Executive Artistic Director and cellist. In August 2005 he played at the Villa-Lobos Museum in Rio de Janeiro, part of SBCE’s Music in Motion: Miami to Rio. In June 2006 he created a successful chamber music festival, South Beach Up North, in his hometown, Wausau, Wisconsin. Audiences at both concerts were standing room only. Last summer Wisconsin Public Radio recorded one of the concerts for future broadcast.
Yael Hyken, viola and Strings instructor

Yael Kleinman Hyken has had a musical career that has taken her all over the world. At the age of 18, she joined the Israel Defense Force in the unit of "Outstanding Musicians" for a period of 21 months. She has performed with ensembles such as the Israel Philharmonic Orchestra, the UBS Verbier Festival and Chamber Orchestra, the Florida Grand Opera, and the Camerata Chamber Orchestra in Israel. From 2007 until 2010 she was a fellow of the New World Symphony, and is currently Guest Principal Viola of the Miami Symphony Orchestra. Yael holds a bachelor's degree from the Academy of Music in Rotterdam, and has also studied at the Israel Conservatory of Tel Aviv as well as the Manhattan School of Music. Yael Has been a member of the Miami Music Project since September 2010 and strongly believes that Music is the one language that is the same all over the world and always brings people together. Therefore, is happy to bring it closer to as many children as possible.

Daniela Padron, Violin and Strings instructor

Young Venezuelan Violinist, who starts her musical development at the age of 3 in the Manuel Alberto Lopez Music School in Caracas, Venezuela, where she received her Performance Diploma in Violin in 2005, under the guidance of renowned French Violinist Virginie Robillard. She has appeared at some of the most Venezuela and Latin America's prestigious halls. Starting 2009, she is the Principal Violinist of acclaimed world music band “Gaelica”, which has been touring throughout the whole Americas including the World Music Festival in Panama (May, 2012). She is also regular Guest Violinist in live concerts and recording of renowned artists such as Frank Quintero, Masseratti 2Its, among others. Between 2009 and 2012, she was Chairman of Violin at the Manuel Alberto Lopez School of Music in Caracas, teaching kids starting age 4 until adulthood, where her student play on very prestigious stages and win top prizes. As well as Chairman, she was also the Manager, Public Relation and Administrative dean of the same Institution. Daniela holds a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration, where she graduated from Metropolitan University, in Caracas. At the present time she is Teaching Artist of the Miami Music Project in both chapters, Doral and Little Haiti. "The power of union and freedom that gives the music is represented in every note, every silence and every smile that produces the Miami Music Project's children when they play their instruments."
Sam Hyken, Trumpet and Music Theory instructor

Sam Hyken has had a diverse musical career that has spanned the globe. Currently residing in Miami, Florida, he is in constant demand as a performer, producer, arranger, and composer. Sam holds a Bachelor's degree from the Juilliard School in New York City, a post-graduate diploma with distinction from the Royal Academy of Music in London, and a Master's degree from the University of Miami. Sam has been engaged as a trumpet soloist and orchestral musician since 1999, holding the positions of Associate Principal Trumpet of the Singapore Symphony, fellow with the New World Symphony, co-principal trumpet of the UBS Verbier Festival Orchestra, and is currently Principal trumpet of the Miami Symphony Orchestra. As a composer, Sam’s music has been commissioned and performed by several symphony orchestras, such as the Kansas City Symphony, the Charlotte Symphony Orchestra, Charleston Symphony, the New World Symphony and the Orquesta Sinfónica Simón Bolívar de Venezuela. In the fall of 2011, Sam began his position as composer in residence with the Miami Symphony Orchestra, which premiered his work “The Beatles Guide to the Orchestra” as their 2011-2012 season opening piece. Various artists and ensembles have contracted Sam to adapt and write new music, including the New World Symphony, Carmen Lundy, Jessie Murphy (Brazilian Girls), and Glen Matlock (Sex Pistols). Sam has been contracted as music director and arranger for "Synesthesia," an event at the New World Center of Miami Beach, where he led his 30 piece "Hyken Orchestra", accompanying Grammy Award Winning artists Dirty Vegas. He is currently on faculty at the University of Miami where he teaches Pop Composition. Sam is a performer and music arranger for the Miami Music Project, and also serves as the Dean of Musicians for the Miami Music Project Honors Orchestra.

Maciej Pietraszko, Trombone and Brass instructor

Maciej Pietraszko is an award-winning trombonist with the New York City Opera, a featured soloist with orchestras and at international festivals across Europe and the United States and co-founder of the annual Zywiec Trombone Festival in Poland, a lively event that gathers musicians and teachers of all ages to learn and perform for audiences in a remote, mountainous region of Poland. Known for his warm, round sound, Mr. Pietraszko is also a dedicated teacher, conductor and ambassador on behalf of his instrument and its repertoire.

Mr. Pietraszko received both his Bachelor of Music degree and his Master of Music degree from the Szymanowsky Academy of Music. While studying, Mr. Pietraszko became the principal trombonist of the Silesian Philharmonic and an associate principal of the National Polish Radio Symphony Orchestra. After gaining his Masters degree, a scholarship brought him to the University of Southern California's Thornton School of Music in 2002, where he studied under Terry Cravens and legendary jazz trombonist Bill Watrous. From 2004-2008 Mr. Pietraszko was a fellow of the New World Symphony under the direction of Michael Tilson Thomas.
Mr. Pietraszko is a recipient of many prestigious awards, including the Grand Prix at the National Trombone Festival in Warsaw, a scholarship from the Polish Minister of Culture and Art, and a First Prize at the Coleman Chamber Ensemble Competition in Pasadena, California and The New World Symphony Concerto Competition.

Mr. Pietraszko is also a member of the *Manhattan Slide Project*, a trombone quartet comprised of unique musicians that seem to be on the same wavelength when it comes to making music.

**Madison Allen, French Horn Instructor**

Originally from Houston, Texas, Madison received a Bachelor of Science with an Outside Field in Business in 2008 from the Indiana University Jacobs School of Music where she studied with Myron Bloom. She began a Master's degree in horn orchestral performance at Manhattan School of Music, where she performed as a Teaching Artist with her peers in Manhattan's public and private schools. She is currently completing her Master's degree at the University of Miami Frost School of Music as a graduate assistant and student of Richard Todd. She is extremely excited to be a part of the Miami Music Project Brass Quintet, and is looking forward to performing for young students in and around the Miami area.