

SEBASTIAN SERRANO – AYALA

Conductor

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An advocate for the music of our time, and a champion for research and programming underrepresented music of the Americas, particularly those rooted in cultural and folkloric heritage.

Leading at the podium as a dynamic, multicultural conductor blending inclusive collaboration with fresh and timely musical interpretations, bringing excellence, value, and joy to musicians, organizations, and audiences.

Highlights

Conducting Fellow, Allentown Symphony
Conductor, 2023 Mostly Modern Festival, NY
Semifinalist, 2022 World Music Contest, NL
Presenter, WASBE 2022 World Conference, CZE
Finalist, 2021 International Competition, Denver, CO

CONDUCTING EXPERIENCE

ASSISTANT CONDUCTOR: [Skagit Symphony](#) *Mt. Vernon, WA | 2023 to present*

- Create and Conduct school and family concerts and serve on the education committee. Cover Michael Wheatley at rehearsals and concerts. Participate in fundraising activities and serve as outreach ambassador.

ASSISTANT CONDUCTOR: [Saratoga Orchestra](#) *Langley, WA | 2021 to present*

- Cover Music Director Anna Edwards, conducting assignments during the concert season and assisting the Pacific Northwest Conducting Institute.

CONDUCTING FELLOW: [Mostly Modern Festival](#) *Saratoga Springs, NY | 2023*

- Conduct the Mostly Modern Orchestra and American Modern Ensemble in readings, premieres, and recordings of new works. Assist Joan Falleta, David Amado and Aram Demirjian.

COVER CONDUCTOR: [Yakima Symphony Orchestra](#) *Yakima, WA | 2023-2024*

- Cover Music Director Lawrence Golan and assist with concert supertitles, media and audio production.

CONDUCTING FELLOW: [Allentown Symphony Orchestra](#) *Allentown, PA | 2021*

- Cover conduct Music Director Diane Wittry and assist concert series. Radio interview and patrons' meetings.

MUSIC DIRECTOR: [Oak Harbor First United Methodist Church](#) *Oak Harbor, WA | 2019-2023*

- Lead, rehearse, program weekly anthems, quarterly concerts for chamber ensembles and orchestra.
- Develop community outreach projects and participate in diverse organizational committees.
- Establish and oversee the digital media and livestreaming production of all music activities.

ADDITIONAL MENTIONS

COVER CONDUCTOR: [Seattle Youth Symphony Orchestra](#) *Seattle, WA | 2024*

GUEST CONDUCTOR: [SJMEA Honor Orchestra](#) *Mt. Vernon, WA | 2023*

GUEST CONDUCTOR: [Whidbey Community Chorus and Orchestra](#) *Oak Harbor, WA | 2023-24*

GUEST CONDUCTOR: [Whatcom Wind Ensemble](#) *Bellingham, WA | 2023*

COVER CONDUCTOR: [Washington Wind Symphony](#) *Seattle, WA | 2022*

PRESENTER: [WASBE World Conference](#) *Prague, CZE | 2022*

CONDUCTING FELLOW: [Symphony Tacoma](#) *Tacoma, WA | 2021*

CONDUCTING FELLOW: [US Army Band "Pershing's Own"](#) *Washington, DC | 2019*

ASSISTANT CONDUCTOR: [Andrews University Orchestra "Sinfonietta"](#) *Berrien Springs, MI | 2015*

GUEST CONDUCTOR: [Philippine International Church Orchestra](#) *Cavite, PH | 2013-14*

MUSIC DIRECTOR, CO-FOUNDER: [Handbell Ringers Philippines](#) *Manila, PH | 2012-2014*

- Recording sessions at Hope Channel Studios and concerts for Dr. Tam Mateo, Bangladesh Embassy, Filinvest City, The Medical City South Luzon, the Festival of Religious Freedom and AUP.

ACADEMIC EXPERIENCE

VISITING ASSISTANT PROFESSOR OF MUSIC, DIRECTOR OF ORCHESTRAL STUDIES:

Department of Music – University of New Mexico

Albuquerque, NM | 2024

- Conducting and programming for the top symphony orchestra and directing the string orchestra.
- Teaching graduate conducting courses and symphonic repertoire seminars.

GRADUATE TEACHING ASSISTANT, RESIDENT CONDUCTOR:

College Conservatory of Music – University of Cincinnati

Cincinnati, OH | 2016-2019

- Teaching the undergraduate conducting courses: design syllabus and program of study.
- Conducting and managing the Wind Ensembles, Chamber Winds, Chamber Orchestra and Brass Choir.

GRADUATE TEACHING ASSISTANT, RESIDENT CONDUCTOR:

Andrews University

Berrien Springs, MI | 2014-2016

- Assisting music theory classes and managing the aural skills lab.
- Conducting and managing the Chamber Orchestra, Wind Symphony, Brass Choir, and Chamber Winds.
 - Tour to Italy at St. Ignatius of Loyola, Rome; University of Bologna, Emilia-Romagna and Pesaro.

CLINICIAN, ASSISTANT CONDUCTOR: Adventist University of the Philippines Cavite, PH | 2012-2014

- Assist conduct and instruct the campus instrumental ensembles: chamber ensembles and orchestras (University Orchestra, Music Majors Orchestra and Chorale, African Chorale, Festival Orchestra)
- Teach the undergraduate instrumental ensemble class and the saxophone studio.

ASSISTANT/ADJUNCT: Adventist University of Colombia

Medellin, COL | 2008-2011

- Assist and conduct the beginner band and beginner handbell choir as well as the Community Program.

EDUCATION

DOCTOR OF MUSICAL ARTS, WIND AND ORCHESTRAL CONDUCTING (cognate)

College Conservatory of Music – University of Cincinnati

Cincinnati, OH, USA | 2019

- Wind and orchestral conducting studies with Kevin Holzman, Terence Milligan and Khai Pung.
- Elective courses include music and diaspora, advanced theory and piano.

MASTER OF MUSIC IN CONDUCTING: Andrews University

Berrien Springs, MI, USA | 2016

- Wind, Orchestral and Choral conducting studies with Alan Mitchell, Claudio Gonzalez and Stephen Zork.
- Elective courses in orchestral performance practices, advanced tonal theory, church music and saxophone.

MASTER OF ARTS IN MUSIC EDUCATION: AUP University of the Philippines

Cavite, PH | 2014

- Music education studies with Dante Oblimar, Neri Beratio and Gracel Ann Saban.
- Elective courses concentrated on saxophone performance studies with Archie Lacorte.

BACHELOR OF MUSIC IN MUSIC EDUCATION: UNAC University of Colombia

Medellin, COL | 2011

- Music Education and conducting studies with Harry Astwood, Nelson Berrio and Hugo Riaño
- Additional instruction in saxophone, conducting, arranging, orchestration, church music and administration.

Masterclass Studies

Marin Alsop, Mei-Ann Chen, Cristian Măcelaru, Diane Wittry, Joan Falleta, David Amado, Aram Demirjian, Lawrence Golan, Gary Lewis, Anna Edwards, Sarah Ioannides, Jan Cober, Mark Heron, Michael Haithcock, Mallory Thompson, Glenn Price, John E. Williamson, Courtney Snyder.

Workshop Participation

Cabrillo Festival Conducting Workshop

Santa Cruz, CA | 2024

Conducting Academy at the National Orchestra Institute + Festival

Washington DC | 2024

Everything Conducting, Omaha Symphony Orchestra

Omaha, NE | 2023

Pacific Northwest Conducting Institute, Saratoga Orchestra

Langley, WA | 2021-23

Conducting Workshop, Denver Philharmonic Orchestra

Denver, CO | 2022

Masterclass at BLOW Festival, Dutch Royal Military Chapel
CBDNA conducting masterclass, MSU Chamber Players
University of Michigan Conducting and Pedagogy Workshop

Kerkrade, NL | 2019
Kalamazoo, MI | 2018
Ann Arbor, MI | 2015

SPECIALIZED SKILLS

- Spanish language native proficiency. Italian and Portuguese languages basic proficiency.
- Photography, live and recorded video production. Social media marketing.
- Classroom and concert technology applications.
- Advanced music notation software: FINALE, arranging/orchestration.
 - Orchestrated and arranged works by Morten Lauridsen, Victoriano Valencia, Luis A. Morales, and more.

HONORS and AWARDS

Semifinalist, 2022 Conducting Contest, World Music Contest (WMC), Kerkrade, NL
WASBE 2022 World Conference Presenter
Finalist, 2021 International Conducting Competition, Denver Philharmonic
Graduate Assistantship Scholarship, College Conservatory of Music - University of Cincinnati
University Graduate Assistantship, University of Cincinnati
Graduate Teaching Assistantship, Andrews University
Graduate Assistantship, Adventist University of the Philippines
Graduate Dean's Award, Adventist University of the Philippines

SCHOLAR PUBLICATIONS

Published

- Serrano-Ayala, S. 2020. *Folk Influences in Colombian Chamber Music*. WASBE Journal, 26, 92-105.
- Serrano Ayala, S. 2013. *Concerto in E flat Major for Alto Saxophone and String Orchestra, Op.109 by Alexander Glazunov: A Structural Analysis for Saxophone Teaching in Intermediate Level*. Master. Adventist University of the Philippines.
- Serrano Ayala, S. 2011. *Estado Del Conocimiento Para La Fundamentación Teórica Y Conceptual De La Línea De Investigación En Pedagogía Musical*. Undergraduate. Adventist University of Colombia.

Unpublished

- Serrano Ayala, S. 2019. *Folk Influences in Colombian Chamber Music: A conductor's analysis of three works for chamber wind ensemble*. Lecture Recital. University of Cincinnati.
- Serrano Ayala, S. 2016. *The African Diaspora in the Northern Colombia: Traces of the African heritage in the national identity*. Research Paper. University of Cincinnati.

REVIEWS

"Fantastic stick technique and rehearsal time management, so efficient at getting the group to sound better in a hurry - and with outward humility that won over the ensemble to get to the common goal of excellence... It'd be a pleasure and privilege to play in any ensemble he conducts"
~Musician

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

League of American Orchestras, USA
Conductors Guild, International
College Orchestra Directors Association, USA
National Band Association NBA, USA
College Band Directors National Association CBDNA, USA
World Association for Symphonic Bands and Ensembles WASBE

REFERENCES

*Available upon request.

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