

# ABEL CUEVAS

## CURRICULUM VITAE

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|-----------------------|----------------------------|
| Educator              | The Center for the Arts    |
| Composer              | 1 University of New Mexico |
| Percussion Specialist | Albuquerque, NM 87131      |
| Consultant            | (505) 363-2514             |
| Performing Artist     | acuevas09@unm.edu          |

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## CURRENT APPOINTMENTS      POST- SECONDARY EDUCATION

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- **Adjunct Faculty, University of New Mexico Department of Music      2026 - Present**
  - Develops and teaches the course MUSC 2170 130: *Fundamentals of Marching Percussion*.
- **Music Arranger, University of New Mexico Spirit Marching Band      2025 - Present**
  - Composes and edits musical arrangements for the marching band.
  - Produces audio recordings and written materials used as teaching tools by the marching band, and the UNM Spirit Cheer and Dance teams.
- **Associate Director of Marching Percussion, University of New Mexico Spirit Marching Band      2015 - Present**
  - Provides musical direction and technical instruction to the marching band percussion section.
  - Manages the marching band percussion section audition camp and placement of membership within the ensemble.

# ABEL CUEVAS

## CURRICULUM VITAE

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- **Associate Director of Marching Percussion, University of New Mexico Spirit Marching Band (continued)**
  - Assists the Director of Athletic Bands as needed in developing and teaching musical and visual concepts to the marching band, planning rehearsals, and auditioning and appointing students to the marching band leadership team.
  - Presents guest lectures on marching percussion pedagogy, history, and techniques as needed for the Marching Band Methods course.
- **Percussion Arranger, University of New Mexico Spirit Marching Band 2015 - Present**
  - Composes and edits musical arrangements for the marching band percussion section.
  - Designs, develops, and composes an annual curriculum and handbook for marching percussion.
  - Produces audio recordings and written materials used as teaching and learning tools by the marching band percussion section.

## CURRENT APPOINTMENTS      SECONDARY AND NON-FORMAL EDUCATION

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- **Percussion Specialist, Hoover Middle School Bands      2025 - Present**
    - Provides percussion and general music instruction to students in the concert bands, jazz band, and group lessons.
    - Provides pedagogical and musical consultation and support as needed to band director and band staff.
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## CURRICULUM VITAE

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- **Percussion Director, Eldorado High School Bands 2024 - Present**
  - Provides percussion and general music instruction to students in the marching band, concert bands, jazz bands, percussion studio class, and group and private lessons.
  - Founder and Director of the EHS *Minus One Percussion Ensemble*.
  - Supervises the EHS Percussion Assistant Director.
  - Provides pedagogical, musical, and logistic consultation and support as needed to band directors and band staff.
- **Music Arranger, Eldorado High School Bands 2024 - Present**
  - Composes and edits musical arrangements for the marching band and the EHS *Minus One Percussion Ensemble*.
  - Produces audio recordings and written materials used as teaching and learning tools by the marching band, jazz bands, percussion studio class, and the EHS *Minus One Percussion Ensemble*.
- **Percussion Specialist and Private Lesson Instructor, Albuquerque Youth Symphony Program 2022 - Present**
  - Directs the Youth Symphony and Youth Orchestra percussion sectionals.
  - Determines part assignments for the Youth Symphony and Youth Orchestra percussion sections.
  - Assesses student and logistic needs for the Youth Symphony and Youth Orchestra percussion sections.
  - Provides percussion and general music instruction for students enrolled in the AYSP Private Lesson Program.

# ABEL CUEVAS

## CURRICULUM VITAE

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- **Percussion Specialist, Eisenhower Middle School Bands 2019 - Present**
  - Provides percussion and general music instruction to students in concert bands, jazz bands, and group and private lessons.
  - Provides pedagogical, musical, and logistic consultation and support as needed to band directors.
  - Produces audio recordings and written materials used as teaching tools by percussionists in the concert bands and jazz bands.
- **NMMEA Adjudicator, Percussion Specialist and Consultant 2016 - Present**
  - Adjudicator in rotation for the District 7 Marching Music Performance Assessment. 2025 - Present
  - Adjudicator in rotation for the District 7 Solo and Ensemble festival. 2017 - Present
  - Determines percussion chair placements, part assignments, and percussion section setups for the District 7 Middle School Honor Band. 2025 - Present
  - Percussion clinician in full ensemble rehearsals and sectionals for the District 7 Middle School Honor Band. 2022 - Present
  - Provides pedagogical and logistical consultation and support as needed to various middle school and high school chapter presidents and music directors. 2016 - Present
- **Private Lesson Instructor 2004 - Present**
  - Teaches students of all levels of experience; beginners to professionals.
  - Areas of focus include: drum set, orchestral percussion, classic and modern rudimental percussion, world percussion, composition, arranging, songwriting, music theory, and music history.

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## CURRICULUM VITAE

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### EDUCATION      POST-SECONDARY

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- University of New Mexico, Albuquerque, New Mexico      Bachelor of Music, 2009 - Concentration: Percussion Performance

### EDUCATION      PROFESSIONAL NON-FORMAL

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- Private study of jazz history, traditional and modern drum set, music pedagogy, and music business with Ralph Peterson Jr.      Professor of Music, Berklee College of Music      2016
- Private study of marching percussion, orchestral percussion, world percussion, traditional and modern drum set, music pedagogy, and music arranging with Pat Amann      Percussion Captain Head and Arranger, Blue Knights Drum and Bugle Corps, and Blue Knights World Percussion Ensemble      2002 - 2004
- Private study of percussion pedagogy, music theory, traditional rudimental drumming, traditional and modern drum set, orchestral percussion, and timpani with Jeff Lunt      Principal Timpanist, New Mexico Symphony Orchestra      1996 - 2001

# ABEL CUEVAS

## CURRICULUM VITAE

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### SELECT PRIOR APPOINTMENTS: EDUCATION

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- Guest Clinician and Adjudicator for multiple schools and organizations throughout New Mexico. 2004 - Present
- Guest consultant for multiple scholastic music programs, arts organizations, and music arrangers in the areas of marching percussion, concert percussion, world music, popular music, and jazz pedagogy and curriculum development. 2004 - Present
- Composer and Arranger for scholastic ensembles. 2004 - Present
- Percussion Specialist, La Cueva High School Bands. 2026
- Percussion Specialist, Madison Middle School Bands. 2023 - 2024
- Jazz Band Clinician, Tony Hillerman Middle School Bands. 2023 - 2024
- Percussion Specialist, Tony Hillerman Middle School Bands. 2022 - 2024
- Music Director and Arranger, Tony Hillerman Middle School Steel Band. 2022 - 2023
- Percussion Instructor, New Mexico Philharmonic Young Musicians Initiative. 2022- 2023
- Percussion Specialist, Saint Pius X High School Bands, Orchestra, and Chorus. 2012 - 2023
- Music Director and Arranger, Corrales Arts Center K-5 *Resonance Percussion Group*. — 2022

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## CURRICULUM VITAE

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- Assistant Director, Tony Hillerman Middle School Steel Band. 2022
- Percussion Director, Volcano Vista High School Bands. 2021 - 2022
- Percussion Specialist, Volcano Vista High School Bands. 2017 - 2020
- Percussion Arranger, Volcano Vista High School Bands. 2018 - 2019
- Percussion Clinician for All-State preparation and various festival camps, Rio Rancho High School Bands. 2012 - 2019
- Private Lesson Instructor, Grandma's Music and Sound. 2014 - 2017
- Percussion Specialist, Menaul School Bands. 2015 - 2016
- Percussion Coordinator, Albuquerque Youth Symphony Program. 2013 - 2016
- Audition Panel Adjudicator, Albuquerque Youth Symphony Program. 2013 - 2016
- Adjudicator, Arsenal Drum and Bugle Corps Duke City Drum Off. 2016
- Marching Percussion Specialist, West Mesa High School. 2016
- Consultant to the Arsenal Drum and Bugle Corps in the areas of marching percussion curriculum development, pedagogy, and arranging for their inaugural season in Drum Corps International. 2016
- Drum Instructor, Bosque School Jazz Camp. 2016
- Marching Percussion Specialist, V. Sue Cleveland High School Bands. 2015

# ABEL CUEVAS

## CURRICULUM VITAE

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- Marching Percussion Specialist, Valley High School Bands. 2015
- Percussion Specialist, Valencia High School Bands. 2015
- Percussion Specialist, Hope Christian School Band. 2015
- Percussion Specialist, Los Alamos Middle School Bands. 2014 - 2015
- Principal Percussion Instructor, New Mexico School of Music. 2012 - 2015
- Chamber Music Conductor for percussion and mixed instrumentation ensembles, Albuquerque Youth Symphony Program. 2014 - 2015
- Marching Percussion Specialist, West Mesa High School. 2014
- Percussion Instructor, Interplay School of Music. 2013 - 2014
- Percussion Instructor, GRS School of Music. 2012
- Percussion Specialist, Rio Rancho High School Bands. 2004 - 2012
- Jazz and Percussion Specialist, Valley High School Bands. 2010 - 2011
- Percussion Specialist, Rio Rancho High School Bands. 2004 - 2012
- Rhythm Coach, University of New Mexico Guitar Ensemble. 2008
- Percussion Arranger, Rio Rancho High School Bands. 2006 - 2008
- Private Lesson Instructor, Highland High School Bands. 2005 - 2006

# ABEL CUEVAS

## CURRICULUM VITAE

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### SELECT PERFORMANCE HISTORY

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- Freelance Drummer and Percussionist, performing and recording for a multitude of international, national, and local artists, bands, organizations, and festivals. 2001 - Present
- Composer of original works and private commissions for use in multimedia projects and live performance. 2006 - Present
- Resident Percussionist, New Mexico Young Actors. 2014 - 2023
- Guest Percussionist (Section and Acting Principal) and Drummer, New Mexico Philharmonic. 2012 - 2023
- Guest Percussionist, University of New Mexico Wind Symphony. 2014 - 2023
- Guest Percussionist (Section and Acting Principal), Opera Southwest. 2018 - 2022
- Guest Percussionist (Section), Santa Fe Symphony and Chorus. 2012 - 2022
- Principal Percussionist, Opera West. 2020 - 2021
- Percussionist, Chatter Chamber Ensemble. 2006 - 2020
- Drummer and Percussionist, Cirque Du Soleil *Wonderland*. 2018
- Percussionist (Section and Acting Principal) and Drummer, Performance Santa Fe Orchestra and Chamber Ensemble. 2015 - 2018

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## CURRICULUM VITAE

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- Guest Percussionist, University of New Mexico Symphony Orchestra. 2014 - 2017
- Music Entertainment Vendor and Music Director, Los Lunas Schools. 2014 - 2016
- Percussionist, *Quintessence*. 2010 - 2015
- Percussionist (Section and Acting Principal) and Drummer, Santa Fe Concert Association. 2012 - 2014
- Guest Percussionist (Section) and Drummer, New Mexico Symphony Orchestra. 2010 - 2011
- Percussionist, Albuquerque Jazz Orchestra. 2010
- Drummer, Music Director and Co-Songwriter, Her Black Wings. 2004 - 2007
- Drummer, Albuquerque Jazz Orchestra. 2005 - 2006

## SELECT CLASSICAL RECORDINGS

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- *Sparrows* - Joseph Schwantner, Chatter Ensemble Live October 2019, Percussion - Independent Release. 2020
  - *Fascinating Ribbons*, University of New Mexico Wind Symphony, Percussion - Summit Records. 2009
  - *Classic Solos for Winds*, University of New Mexico Wind Symphony, Percussion - Summit Records. 2007
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### SERVICE TO COMMUNITY AND PROFESSION

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- Promotes the study and practice of music as a therapeutic means of expression for students of families with low-income, and individuals living with learning disabilities, mental illness, addiction, trauma and/or otherwise challenging life circumstances through personalized pro bono private music lessons. 2004 - Present
- Co-designed, programmed, and lead a musical tribute to the UNM alumnus, Ragon Espinosa. This memorial presentation featured a “21 Drum Salute”, co-coordinated and taught by myself, and performed by members of the UNM Spirit Marching Band percussion section along with multiple musicians who were among Ragon’s closest friends and family. 2025
- Collaborated with soprano singer Sally Li, Artistic Director and Founder of the *Bel Canto in Barga International Singing Festival*, to curate repertoire for multiple solo and chamber music concerts in historic and newly commissioned concert venues throughout Spain and Italy. 2020 - 2023
- Collaborated with Los Lunas Schools to curate, produce and perform in an annual series of motivational speaking and musical programs featuring established conjunto and cumbia guest artists. This series was formed with the intent to inspire and encourage youth to leverage their participation in school arts programs as a platform to overcome life challenges through the pursuit of their artistic and professional dreams. 2014 - 2016
- Collaborated with members of a local chapter of Alcoholics Anonymous in the production *The Blackouts Get The Blues*; illustrating the raw emotive power of American roots music as an effective tool along the path to recovery. 2010

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### RESEARCH IN PROGRESS

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- Cuevas, A. *The Cuevas Method, Book 1: Development of Hand Technique*. (In Preparation)
  - Developing a guided collection of technical and musical exercises for the development of hand technique for snare drum and drum set.
- Cuevas, A. *The Cuevas Method, Book 2: Finding Your Voice on the Drums*. (In Preparation)
  - Developing a guided collection of technical and musical exercises and transcriptions for the development of a personal approach to drum set and drum set techniques.