



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

# Students from El Sistema New Jersey Alliance to participate in Seminario with Gustavo Dudamel

April 28 at Princeton University

## Event closes with student performance at Richardson Auditorium

Gustavo Dudamel, one of the world's most famous conductors, is ending his season-long residency at Princeton University Concerts—and on April 28, more than 300 children from cities across New Jersey and beyond will converge on campus to give him a big musical “goodbye and thank you!”

The children are students in intensive ensemble music learning programs known as “El Sistema-inspired,” after a model launched decades ago in Venezuela; Dudamel himself is a product of one such program. At the April gathering, an all-day seminario, students from 10 programs across the region will celebrate the power of musical ensemble by rehearsing, singing, drumming, and folk dancing together. The day will culminate with a joint concert at Richardson Auditorium in Alexander Hall at 3 pm.

The students include members of the seven programs of the El Sistema New Jersey Alliance, the first statewide network of El Sistema programs in the United States. It includes NJSO CHAMPS (Character, Achievement and Music Project) in Newark; the Paterson Music Project; Sister Cities GirlChoir (Camden); Sonic Explorations: Sharing Sounds of Oakwood (Orange); Union City Music Project; Trenton Music Makers, and Keys 2 Success (Newark). Students from other El Sistema programs, including New York's Harmony Program; Philadelphia's Play On, Philly!, and the D'Addario Foundation's Ascenté Chamber Orchestra in Copiague, NY, will also be participating.

El Sistema-inspired music education now reaches almost a million children in 65 countries across the world, with 130 programs launched in the US in the past decade.

Tricia Tunstall, a New Jersey music educator and the author of two books about the El Sistema movement, *Changing Lives* and *Playing for Their Lives*, says: “El Sistema music learning is all about inclusion, teamwork and joy. The idea is that making music together, intensively and collaboratively, can empower children and youth to make positive choices in their lives. And there's growing evidence to show that it works!”

***The Princeton Seminario is co-sponsored by the El Sistema New Jersey Alliance and the New Jersey State Council on the Arts. The El Sistema New Jersey Alliance is supported by the Geraldine R. Dodge Foundation and the D'Addario Foundation.***

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