



**AN INTENSIVE VIRTUAL CELLO FESTIVAL  
FOR SPANISH SPEAKING CELLISTS**



## Who I am

I am an Israeli-Mexican-American cellist and passionate educator. I lead a multi-faceted career as orchestral and chamber musician, educator, and concert curator in Boston. I am on faculty at the award-winning, El Sistema inspired, program Boston String Academy and at The Longy School of Music of Bard College. My students have gone on to win auditions, competitions and have taken part in prestigious music programs.

My passion: I mentor and train pre-professional string players of limited resources to reach their fullest potential so they can have equal opportunities and lead a successful life in music. I'm particularly passionate about working with students in Latin America.

## Why I launched this festival

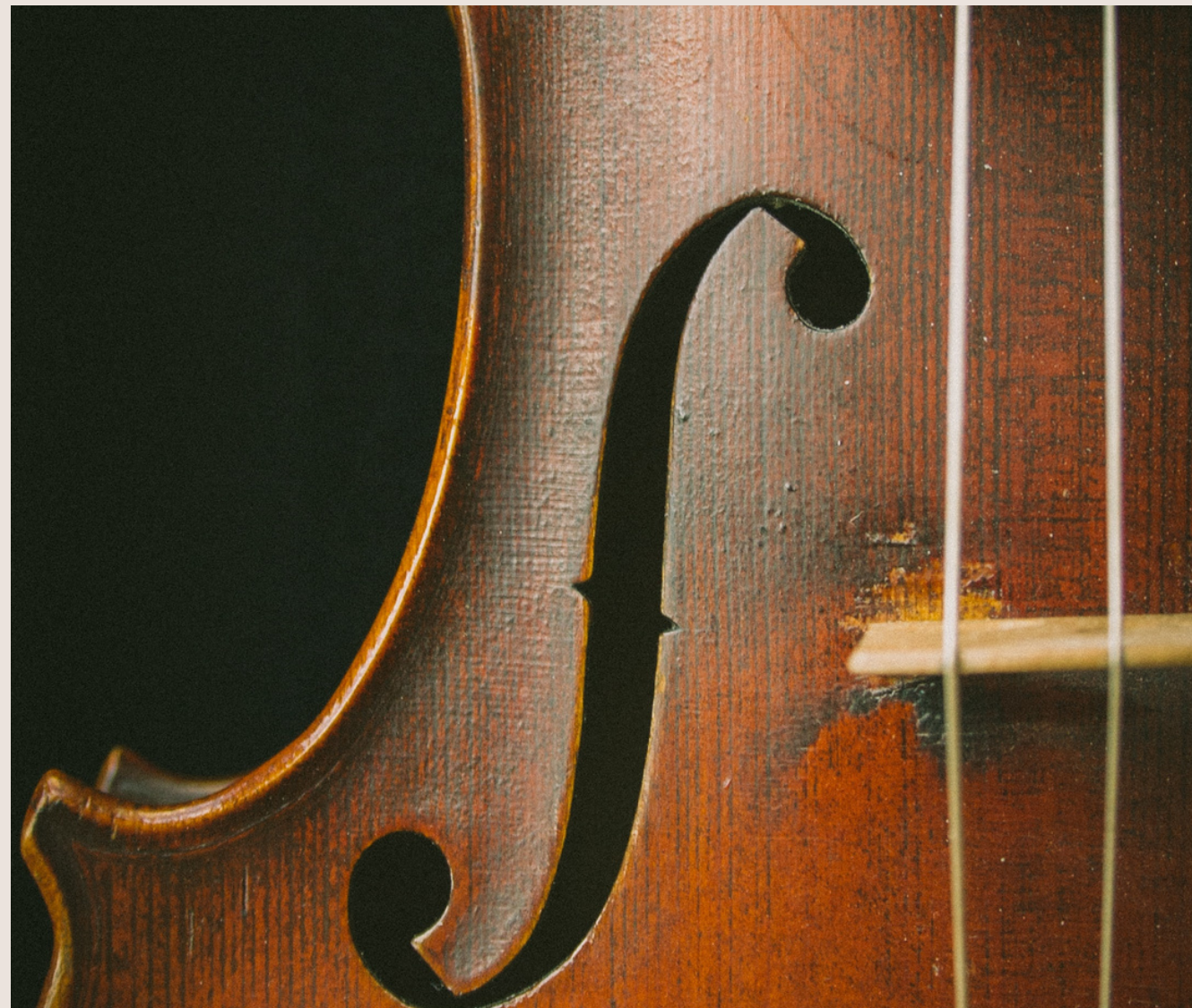
During the pandemic I saw a need: cello students in Latin America became more isolated, uninspired, and disconnected. Musical activities halted and many were left without their supportive teachers, who had to leave due to political reasons or the economic climate. Even before the pandemic, these highly talented cellists had very limited resources to reach their full potential.

I knew that with my ability to bridge cultures, I could curate a transformative experience to support young cellists at a very challenging time, help them regain their energy, and acquire the experience they need to further their careers.



**MICHAL SHEIN**  
**ARTISTIC DIRECTOR**





## What is the Cellisimo Festival?

The Cellisimo Festival is a two-week, intensive virtual program for advanced Spanish speaking cellists, ages 15-24, who are interested in or currently pursuing a career in music. All sessions are in Spanish.

The festival focuses on high level cello learning, mental health wellness and creating a tight-knit community.

The festival also includes sessions which are open to donors and members of the Cellisimo Facebook Group.

## What need does it fill?

Music students all over the world have felt deeply isolated during the pandemic and many have still not regained access to their regular musical activities.

Even pre-pandemic, Latin American students faced these challenges. Despite being highly talented and surmounting obstacles to pursue a classical music career, many lack the resources to attend the educational programs they NEED in order to reach their full potential and build a sustainable career.

Classical musicians' success depends on a training beyond private lessons: masterclasses with international soloists and master teachers, festival participation, mentor and peer connections, audition coaching, and more.

Students also desperately need support, now more than ever, with mental and physical wellbeing in order to achieve long-term success.

The festival is here to address all these needs.



# What makes Cellisimo unique?

## Empowering leadership in young musicians

Festival participants are highly talented young musicians who are forging a path in classical music in their respective countries, despite many obstacles. The festival empowers them with a supportive international community of peers and mentors, as well as a set of highly effective tools for personal and career development.

## Inspiration - the driving force for success

The most powerful motivator in classical music career development is listening to peers or a master musician. The festival allows access both to a highly select group of peers, as well as world renowned musicians -- facilitating transformative experiences that will fuel participants' drive to practice more and achieve greatness in the field.

## Life-changing connections

Musicians depend heavily on connections in their career. Auditions and job success is dependant not only on excellence in playing, but also on working with prominent teachers and participating in festivals and masterclasses.

The festival gives participants life-long connections with peers and faculty beyond their borders.

## Cultivating positive mental health

The music field is highly competitive and the striving for excellence can bring on feelings of inadequacy, stress and anxiety. These challenges have only grown during the pandemic. The festival makes space for participants to voice their struggles, and also provides guidance, tools and strategies for musicians' positive mental and physical health.

“This festival was created with so much love, attention, and detail so that the students would feel very comfortable in their development as a person and musician.”  
-Cristhian Requejo, 2021 participant



# Alumni impact stories



**Arlette Santiago, 16**

Oaxaca, Mexico

"I think that this festival will grow immensely, because of the care it shows for its students, the empathic teaching style...that passion that truly motivates. I am left more inspired than ever, and am incredibly thankful for the opportunity and for taking care of us...in this festival we felt heard, valued. Thank you. We created a lovely community where we supported each other and became friends for life."



**Rafael Briceño, 20**

Venezuela/Ecuador

"I want to offer my deepest gratitude to the festival, which helped me feel motivated again...I haven't had a teacher since I was 14. Participating in classes again was incredibly significant for me. I am left extremely happy knowing that we shared so many things in common, despite coming from different places and that we share the desire to lead a life in music."



**Juanita González, 20**

Colombia

"The Cellísimo Festival TRANSFORMS you, it opened my mind and heart. It gave me a broader perspective of music, and taught me the importance of my emotional wellbeing, it leaves me with great personal goals, and it gives me tools to connect with myself as a person and as a musician. It's a project capable of transforming the lives of each of us, who have had the opportunity to go through it, a project that INNOVATES, changes."





**PROGRAM COMPONENTS &  
SELECTION PROCESS**



# What does each student receive?

## Private lessons

Students receive 2 private lessons, where they delve deeply into their repertoire in a 1:1 setting. Students can attend each other's lessons to maximize learning.

## Group Technique Class

Every day, students come together for a group technique class, where key aspects of achieving high level technique are addressed.

## Masterclasses and Special Sessions

Students have the opportunity to play in masterclasses for world renowned musicians. In addition, the festival offers lectures and special sessions about improvisation, early baroque practice, pedagogy, career guidance, audience engagement, and more.

## Wellness sessions

Daily wellness sessions include yoga, meditation, mindfulness, journaling, and fitness for musicians.

“ I fell in love with all the participants, and I learned so much from each one. [the classes] showed me that there are so many talented cellists in this world, each with a unique voice. It was amazing!  
-Tere Cordova, Mexico





MICHAL SHEIN



HORACIO CONTRERAS



LLUIS CLARET



MICKEY KATZ



CHRISTINE LAMPREA



LUIS MIGUEL ROJAS



RAFAEL GUEVARA



ALVARO BITRAN



ANGEL HERNANDEZ



ROBERTO RAMIREZ



MA'AYAN JOSEVICH



LENA DIMITROVA

# A World-Class Faculty

The Cellisimo Festival brings together Spanish speaking faculty of the highest caliber. The festival features renowned cellists from Latin America and the U.S., who give masterclasses and individual lessons to the participants.

In addition, the festival has an incredible team of wellness practitioners, hailing from Latin America and Europe, who offer sessions on meditation, yoga, and fitness for musicians.

“ I learned so much from each teacher and from my fellow cellists. It was an amazing festival that changed my perspective in music and daily life, and I am eternally grateful for that.  
-Nancy Olivares, Mexico ”





# How are the participants selected?

Musicians are used to being selected solely based on their playing. At the Cellisimo Festival, we follow a different process.

As Artistic Director, I begin the selection process by reviewing the applicants' videos LAST. I look at their musical education, how dedicated they are to their studies, and their past musical experiences. I then move on to their essays, which offer a window into their most important musical experience and obstacles they have faced. First, I take in their story. Only then, I listen to their videos.

This process enables me to see the whole musician -- their talent and musical potential, as well as their leadership skills and commitment to community building. This admissions approach yielded an incredible cohort in 2021. The participants bonded instantly, inspired each other musically and personally, and created one of the most meaningful communities I've had the pleasure of convening.

**CELLISIMO**  
FESTIVAL VIRTUAL  
VERANO 2023  
JUNIO 26- JULIO 8

**20 CELLISTAS, 6 PAÍSES  
UNIDOS POR LA MÚSICA**

**MEXICO**  
ANGEL BUSTILLOS  
ANDRES IBARRA  
PABLO MONTERO  
MARIO NUCAMENDI  
NANCY OLIVARES  
ALANIS PEREZ  
VALERIA REYES  
GRECIA VILLARREAL  
VALENTINA ZAVALA

**VENEZUELA**  
CESAR ACEDO  
ORIANA FERREIRA  
ARIAM FERNANDEZ  
WILBER HERRERA  
ZADLEI LOBATON  
MOISES MEDINA

**PERU**  
MARIA PAOLA TARAZONA

**CHILE**  
BERNARDO LOPEZ  
ANDREA ZURITA

**ECUADOR**  
DANIEL LEGARDA

**COLOMBIA**  
JUANITA ARDILLA





## DONATION LEVELS



# Tuition and suggested levels of support

**Tuition to attend this high level festival is \$2,000.**

The festival participants do not have the financial resources to attend these types of festivals. Moreover, most are feeling especially disempowered in their education due to the pandemic. Musical activities have halted and many have been left without their supportive teachers, who have had to leave due to political reasons or due to the current economic climate. Their families are currently struggling more than ever. This festival is life-changing for them.

**Your support means a tremendous impact in these students' lives, and supports the continuation of this festival and its future offerings.**

## Friend

\$100

With this donation, you are contributing towards the scholarship fund of the festival and is equal to 2 studio classes for a student. You can be listed as a donor on the festival website.

## Music Lover

\$250

With this donation, you are contributing towards the scholarship fund of the festival. This contribution grants a student two private lessons with a renowned faculty member. You will be invited to attend one virtual masterclasses and be listed as a donor on the festival website.

## Supporter

\$500

With this donation, you sponsoring a student for two private lessons, 4 studio classes and attendance for one lecture. You will be invited to attend two virtual masterclasses and be listed as a donor on the festival website.

## Benefactor

\$1000

With this generous donation, you are contributing towards one full week of tuition for a student at the festival. You will be invited to virtually attend any of the masterclasses and be listed on the festival website.

## Dream Maker

\$2,000

With this generous donation, you are fully sponsoring a student and the scholarship can be made in your name. As a donor at this level, you can virtually attend any of the masterclasses of the festival and be listed on the festival website.



# Donation information

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Tax-deductible donations can be made on the festival website, on the "Support" page: [www.cellisimo.com](http://www.cellisimo.com)



**Thank you for your support!**