

José Luis Hernández-Estrada is on a dynamic career path that combines music performance and cultural leadership. A recipient of the prestigious 2011-2012 Abreu Fellowship at New England Conservatory, he holds a Bachelor of Music from Texas Christian University in Fort Worth and completed post-graduate studies in performance at the Conservatori del Liceu in Barcelona. He holds a Master of Music degree in orchestral conducting from the University of Texas Pan-American. During 2009, Hernandez-Estrada led the Orquesta Sinfónica Juvenil Carlos Chavez (Mexico's leading youth orchestra), and was named a Conducting Fellow to The Conductor's Institute at Bard College in New York where he studied under Leon Botstein. Other honors include being selected by the Los Angeles Philharmonic, as one of three conductor finalists for Youth Orchestra Los Angeles (YOLA), the signature project of Gustavo Dudamel. He has also collaborated with the South Texas Youth Symphony, Round Rock (TX) and Astoria (NY) Symphonies in professional and masterclass settings. His most influential conducting mentors and teachers include Peter Dabrowski, Jorma Panula, and Peter Bay.

Hernandez-Estrada has performed as a piano soloist and chamber musician throughout Mexico, and in Oslo, Barcelona, Tarragona (Auditori Pau Casals), Sioux Falls (Dakota Sky), and Miami. Other professional highlights include performances of concerti by Rachmaninov and Manuel M. Ponce with the Fürther Streichhölzer in Germany, engagements with Orquesta Sinfonica Juvenil de Mexico for capacity audiences in Mexico City's Auditorio Blas Galindo and Sala Silvestre Revueltas, the Fort Worth Chamber Orchestra (under conductor Ian Hobson), and collaborative concerts in Atlanta, Indianapolis, New York, Dallas, and at the II Fiesta Iberoamericana de las Artes in Puerto Rico. Recent concert appearances include a performance at the Dame Myra Hess Memorial Concert Series in Chicago and an extensive educational concert series at the Tenth Festival Internacional Tamaulipas (Mexico).

An advocate of music education and a gifted communicator, his enlightening outreach performances have received critical acclaim and reached thousands of school-age children. An accomplished chamber musician and teaching artist, he has served as a faculty member of the Austin Chamber Music Center and the Van Cliburn Foundation's Musical Awakenings® program. Hernandez-Estrada is the founder and artistic director of the Festival Internacional de Piano Reynosa (Mexico), a cultural event presenting world class pianists and musicians in solo recitals, lectures, and educational concerts. He also serves as the Director of Children's Education at the Dakota Sky International Piano Festival in South Dakota. In his role as citizen artist, in 2009, he founded the Núcleo Comunitario de Aprendizaje Musical "Reynosa", Mexico's largest youth orchestra program modeled after Venezuela's El Sistema.

An avid proponent of new music and innovative approaches to programming, Hernandez-Estrada is a laureate of the 2006 JK Hodges Contemporary Piano Performance Award and has collaborated in interdisciplinary performances with renowned artists in various fields. He is a voting member of the National Academy of Recording Arts and Sciences, the music advocacy organization that bestows the annual GRAMMY® Awards. For more info visit his artist website at www.joseherstrada.com. Follow him on twitter @ joseherstrada.

May 2011