

# EL SISTEMA

## MUSIC TRANSFORMS

“Music Transforms” will explore El Sistema’s innovative approaches to music education, community engagement, and social transformation. Focusing on the history, philosophy, and practice of the Venezuelan program; the symposium seeks to inspire musicians, educators, and community leaders to embrace music as a potent force for building a more prosperous future in the United States and beyond.

## Oklahoma City University Hosts Symposium

The Wanda L. Bass School of Music at Oklahoma City University will present a symposium on the revolutionary El Sistema entitled, “Music Transforms,” on April 13. The symposium is open to the public and encourages the participation of educators, musicians, and community leaders. Registration is free and includes lunch.



The featured speakers are:

**Jamie Bernstein**, internationally renowned narrator, writer, and broadcaster.

**Christine Witkowski**, Director of the Los Angeles Philharmonic’s YOLA at HOLA program (Gustavo Dudamel’s signature program).

**Stanford Thompson**, CEO of Play on, Philly! and chair of the US National Alliance of El Sistema-inspired programs.

**Jose Luis Hernandez-Estrada**, classical conductor, author, and Executive Director/Head of Learning of El Sistema Oklahoma.

The half-day symposium is co-sponsored by El Sistema Oklahoma, a program of St. Luke’s United Methodist Church in partnership with Oklahoma City University.

Register by April 10 via email to [jsgodinez@okcu.edu](mailto:jsgodinez@okcu.edu).

For more info please contact Jose Luis Hernandez-Estrada at [jlhernandez@okcu.edu](mailto:jlhernandez@okcu.edu) or 405-208-4921.



## Music Transforms Agenda

**Bass Music Center Atrium**  
2501 N Blackwelder Ave.  
Oklahoma City, OK 73106

[Click here for map.](#)  
From NW 23<sup>rd</sup> St, turn N onto McKinley. Turn left onto 25<sup>th</sup> St and entrance is at dead end.

**April 13, 2013**

**10:30 – Keynote Address, Jamie Bernstein**

### **From West to East: Voices from the field**

*In these dynamic presentations, three of the nation’s most inspiring doers and thinkers in the field share their experiences; vision and hopes for El Sistema as an instrument to transform lives and shape communities in the United States and beyond.*

**11:15 – Jose Luis Hernandez-Estrada**

### **“Harmony, Beauty, and Goodness: Truths for Social Change”**

Drawing from the teachings of Jose Antonio Abreu and the praxis of El Sistema in Venezuela, Jose Luis explores harmony, beauty, and goodness in music as transcendental truths for social change.

**11:40 – Christine Witkowski**

### **“ On Building an El Sistema Culture”**

Christine reveals the process of transplanting El Sistema’s best practices in the context of the Los Angeles experience. How can educators embody a culture where excellence, joy, and collaboration coexist?

**12:05 – Stanford Thompson**

### **“To what end? - The Promise El Sistema Brings”**

Why should El Sistema-inspired initiatives lead our communities in solving the problems they face? Stanford shares how music can uplift troubled children, inspire professional musicians into action, and produce pride in diverse communities.

**12:30 – Lunch** (Registration required), **El Sistema Oklahoma Presentation**

**REGISTER BY APRIL 10 VIA EMAIL TO [JSGODINEZ@OKCU.EDU](mailto:jsgodinez@okcu.edu)**