

# Jonathan Villegas

Wind Ensembles Director, Symphonic Conductor, Cellist, & Arts Administrator

Email: [jvcello@yahoo.com](mailto:jvcello@yahoo.com) |

Website: [jvconductor.com](http://jvconductor.com) | Location: Baltimore, MD, USA

## PROFESSIONAL PROFILE

Dynamic and socially driven Music Director, Conductor, and Educator committed to advancing student-centered learning, inclusive artistic practice, and community-engaged music-making within collegiate and pre-professional settings. Integrating extensive experience in ensemble leadership, curriculum development, applied and academic instruction, creative scholarship, interdisciplinary collaboration, and strategic student recruitment, Villegas brings a research-informed, equity-focused approach to conducting, programming, rehearsal pedagogy, and artistic leadership across orchestral, wind, and multidisciplinary performance domains. A proud Latinx and queer artist, they champion culturally responsive repertoire, transformative mentorship, and service-oriented leadership that enriches institutional culture, expands access for historically underserved communities, and prepares emerging musicians for meaningful, innovative careers in the contemporary musical arts.

## CORE COMPETENCIES

- Orchestral, Wind, & Operatic Conducting
- Artistic Programming & Season Planning
- Score Preparation & Rehearsal Technique
- Music Theory, Orchestration & Analysis, & Conducting Techniques
- Community Engagement & Education
- Leadership & Ensemble Development
- Commissioning & Premiering New Works
- Budgeting & Artistic Administration
- Outreach & Recruitment Initiatives
- Media Appearances & Donor/Public Relations

## PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

### Wind Ensemble Conductor

**The Juilliard School – Music Advancement Program - New York City, NY**

2025 – Present

- Programmed and conducted a 60-piece student ensemble, ages 10 – 18, through 2 concerts per season at Lincoln Center, including thematic cycles and world premieres.
- Selected advanced repertoire of standard wind ensemble and concert band literature, along with contemporary 20<sup>th</sup>/21<sup>st</sup>-century works from composers of varying diverse backgrounds.

- Created curriculum for weekly rehearsals, syllabi for the wind ensemble, and presented for various donors and other significant figures as part of our outreach initiatives.
- Mentored a cohort of 20 Music Advancement Fellows from The Juilliard School, through sharing teaching techniques, social-emotional learning methods, and modeling successful leadership in a teaching setting each week through rehearsals and reflection.

### **Assistant Band Director**

**Riverdale Country School, The Bronx, NY**

2025 – Present

- Recruited students from the over 1,300 student-body population in order to increase the numbers and retention of the band and orchestra programs through curriculum development, exploratory learning, and outreach initiatives for visibility amongst the community.
- Taught 6<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> grade classes from preparatory-advanced level of students.
- Increased visibility and recruitment from both students and faculty through involvement in affinity groups ranging from Latinx-led and LGBTQ+-led events and groups through collaboration with the office of Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Belonging.

### **Founding Conductor**

**New Jersey Symphony Youth Orchestra – Bridge Ensemble - Newark, NJ**

2025 – Present

- Founding conductor of an intermediate-level symphony orchestra, as part of an existing expansion, and need to create an ensemble that supports students matriculating into the advanced orchestras.
- Conducted a 45-piece symphony orchestra to include arrangements of both standard orchestral literature and contemporary works by modern composers and arrangers.
- Created a curriculum that develops the necessary fundamental skills for students ages 10 – 18, covering a range of articulations, rhythms, dynamics, and technical dexterity.

### **Wind Ensembles Director**

**Baltimore Symphony Orchestra's OrchKids, Baltimore, MD**

2023 – Present

- Conducted over 150 students across several schools throughout Baltimore City and Baltimore County, amongst 6 different wind ensembles and a symphony orchestra, through programmatic cycles, ranging from standard to contemporary literature.

- Founding conductor of a preparatory wind ensemble for students who have been playing their instrument for a year or oftentimes less, teaching weekly fundamental techniques amongst standard literature on the following instruments: flute, oboe, clarinet, alto saxophone, trumpet, french horn, trombone, and a variety of percussion instruments.
- Developed curriculum to reinforce rhythm, sight-reading, intonation, dexterity, and various articulation styles for students ages 5 – 18 amongst all large string and wind ensembles.
- Mentored students through initiatives that created student leaders in each ensemble, oftentimes through conducting, and other duties.
- Featured conductor for conferences such as the Teaching Artists Training Institute and the League of American Orchestras, along with conducting in outreach events, including a performance alongside Marin Alsop to over 2000+ audience members in the Myerhoff Concert Hall, featuring the OrchKid's Symphonic Wind Ensemble.
- Presented rehearsals and performances specifically for donors and other significant figures, along with representing both the Baltimore Symphony Orchestra and OrchKids, as an artistic leader speaking for the organization at various stewardship events.
- Led a summer program each year, which involved teaching instrumental classes to all stringed instruments to students from the preparatory to advanced levels, alongside facilitating a collective composition ensemble, chamber music, and conducting 3 different wind ensembles at varying levels.
- Managed a cohort of 20 teaching artists from various winds/brass/percussion instruments, in supplying teaching tactics and curriculum, along with assigning material to instruct the students in the ensemble through weekly sectionals.
- Implemented programming structures, social-emotional learning tools, including administrative duties such as reviewing artistic budget, implementation times, curriculum creation, logistics meetings, and production.

### **Founding Conductor**

Training Ensemble Wind Ensemble - New Jersey Symphony Youth Orchestra, Newark, NJ  
2023 – 2025

- Founding conductor of a preparatory-level youth wind ensemble that covered a variety of instruments such as flute, oboe, clarinet, bass clarinet, alto saxophone, baritone saxophone, trumpet, trombone, french horn, and a variety of percussion instruments.
- Recruitment initiatives included leading an outreach tour of school visits to students in Rahway, Jersey City, Newark, at our various partnership sites, through giving clinics to various high school orchestras, exponentially growing this pilot wind ensemble by over 500% from 6 student beginners to over 30 within the first year.

- Collaborated with Montclair State University through our partnership, to aid in mentoring collegiate students in the music department on teaching tools, curriculum-building, teacher reflections, and modeling to those students how to engage and successfully teach in a large educational setting.
- Managed a cohort of 10 professional musicians from the New Jersey Symphony Orchestra, in teaching tactics and assigning material to instruct the students in the ensemble through weekly sectionals.

### **Assistant Artistic Director**

#### **D.C.'s Different Drummers, Symphonic Band, Washington, D.C.**

2023 – 2025

- Conducted the only LGBTQIA+ Symphonic Band in Washington, D.C., which consisted of over 150 different musicians through thematic cycles, including a world premiere performance of “Gravity” by Julie Giroux.
- Regularly collaborated with diverse living composers and used a personal network of artistic leaders and musicians to connect and discuss programmed literature from both standard and contemporary works to our ensembles.
- Collaborated with the Artistic Director, President, and Board of Directors on managing a \$750,000 annual artistic budget across 4 large ensembles that oversee over 300 musicians.

### **Assistant Conductor**

#### **Wind Ensemble - Peabody Conservatory at the Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, MD**

2023 – 2025

- Conducted a 60-piece wind ensemble consisting of collegiate undergraduate and graduate students (master's and doctoral-level), through standard literature and contemporary works, including several world premieres by composers from the studios of Felipe Lara, Joel Puckett, Sky Macklay, and Michael Hersch.
- Collaborations included student-led chamber opera, including the world premiere of Elena Winell's chamber opera, *The Little Red Hen*.
- Assisted in teaching and conducting classes, including Basic Conducting and Woodwind Methods.

### **Assistant Conductor**

#### **Peabody Preparatory, Baltimore, MD**

2023 – 2025

- Selected repertoire of standard concert band and wind ensemble literature, amongst other contemporary and diverse works, to an intermediate to advanced-level 40-piece student group from ages 8 - 18 in weekly rehearsals.
- Developed curriculum to support the development of the students using standard pedagogical resources from the concert band and wind ensemble literature.

### **Assistant Conductor**

Symphony Orchestra - Portland State University, Portland, OR  
2023 – 2025

- Conducted a 50-piece undergraduate and graduate-level student symphony orchestra through 4 performances a year, through programmatic artistic cycles, including world premieres from faculty and student composers alike.
- Programmed symphonies and serenades from standard composers such as Tchaikovsky, Beethoven, Mozart, Bach, along with several contemporaries such as Florence Price, Jelly Roll Morton, Kenji Bunch, Giancarlo Castro D'Addona, and several others.
- Assisted in teaching undergraduate courses in String Methods, Woodwind Methods, String Ensemble (ensemble lab) for Music Educators, Concert Band Ensemble (ensemble lab) for Music Educators, String Pedagogy, Orchestration and Arranging, Basic Conducting, and Choral Conducting.
- Coordinator of the String Ensemble Community Outreach Program, which brought free chamber music to various nursing homes, hospitals, community centers, and prisons. Initiatives ranged from solo cello performances, string duos, trios, quartets, and piano quartets, all of which included settings in a lecture-recital format.
- Created syllabi for all courses involved, along with grading, attendance, Canvas management, and hosting and judging seating auditions.
- Covered rehearsals as needed for the Associate Conductor for all collegiate ensembles for the Orchestra, Bands, and Opera as part of being a recipient of the Graduate Teaching Assistant for these divisions.

### **Assistant Conductor**

Opera - Portland State University, Portland, OR  
2023 – 2025

- Assisted the Music Director with rehearsals, coached vocalists, prepared the orchestra in weekly rehearsals, and prepared all musical scores.
- Conducted an opera consisting of 50 symphony orchestra musicians, 30 vocalists (semi-professional and professional singers ranging from children, collegiate students, and adults), 12 dancers, and collaborated with a team of at least 20 production staff.

- Collaborated with the Music Director on logistical issues, covering all blocking and piano dress rehearsals, and worked closely with the Stage Director, Linda Brovsky.
- Notable performances include Otto Nicolai's *The Merry Wives of Windsor*, and Mozart's *The Magic Flute*. 2023 Production of *The Magic Flute* recognized as the 3<sup>rd</sup> place winner of the National Opera Association Competition in Division IV.

### **Graduate Assistant Director**

Wind Ensemble, University Band, and Chamber Winds - Portland State University, Portland, OR  
2023 – 2025

- Conducted the collegiate wind ensemble consisting of over 60 students from both the undergraduate and graduate studies.
- As a recipient of the Graduate Teaching Assistantship for the Orchestra, Bands, and Opera, I conducted the PSU University Band, which consisted of 50 players, including undergraduate, graduate, non-majors, and community players, aged 18–92, through standard and contemporary wind literature.
- Founding Assistant Conductor of the PSU Chamber Winds, derived from instrumental performance majors in both undergraduate and graduate levels, specializing in standard and contemporary chamber literature for winds.
- Featured cello soloist with the PSU Chamber Winds, in David Maslanka's *Remember Me*.
- Other notable performances include being one of the first collegiate-level ensembles to perform in the newly built Patricia Reser Center for the Arts in 2022, and collaborating in a Pride concert with the Rose City Band in 2023 titled: *Tú-tti: A Symphonic Pride Celebration by PSU University Band and Rose City Pride Bands*.
- Toured at various partnership sites at different high schools and community colleges throughout the Greater Portland area, on a recruitment and outreach tour which included being a featured guest conductor to their corresponding orchestra and bands as a guest clinician and featured cello soloist.

### **Substitute Conductor**

Metropolitan Youth Symphony Orchestra, Portland, OR  
2023 – 2025

- Conducted for two seasons as cover conductor for the Sinfonietta Orchestra, teaching over 50 students in a full orchestra setting for up to 6 concerts per year.
- The repertoire consisted of standard symphonic literature, music from films, Broadway shows, and contemporary artists who write for this setting.

## **Conductor**

Huntsville Youth Orchestra - Sam Houston State University, Huntsville, TX  
2012 – 2017

- Built curriculum to support the development of preparatory-level students in their first year of learning stringed instruments, up to advanced students in high school age, by preparing them for collegiate auditions.
- Created syllabi to support developing ensemble expectations and establishing regulations for the program, along with developing strategic planning of pedagogical resources that have become the standard for the program of varying performance levels.
- Taught weekly private and group lessons to students of all levels, from beginner to advanced, from ages 5 – 18.
- Mentored other undergraduate students to teach and develop their own curriculum for both private and group lessons, on a weekly basis, along with instilling resources from diverse backgrounds to teach the students various musical styles in a pedagogical perspective.

## **EDUCATION**

**Master of Music (MM), Wind Conducting**  
Peabody Conservatory, Baltimore, MD  
2025

**Master of Music (MM), Cello Performance**  
Portland State University, Portland, OR  
2023

**Bachelor of Music (BM), Cello Performance**  
Sam Houston State University, Huntsville, TX  
2017

## **SELECTED REPERTOIRE**

Symphonic: Beethoven (1, 4 & 5, Choral Fantasy), Tchaikovsky (4 & String Serenade), Ravel, Poulenc, Farrenc (2), Mendelssohn (4), Rossini (*William Tell Overture*), Vivaldi (*Four Seasons, Concerto Grosso, Double Violin Concerto*), Elgar (*Nimrod*), Dvorak (8), Telemann (Viola Concerto, Concerto for Strings), Barber (*Adagio for Strings*), Vaughn Williams (*Fantasia on a Theme of Thomas Tallis*), Bruckner (1)

Opera: Mozart (*The Magic Flute*), Nicolai Otto, (*The Merry Wives of Windsor*), Bizet (*Carmen*)

Wind Ensembles: Maslanka (4), Giroux (4), Holst (1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> Suites, The Planets), Bernstein (Candide Suite), Marquez (Danzon No. 2), Richard Strauss (Serenade in Eb), Higdon, Grainger, Persichetti (wind serenade), Stravinsky (Octet), and Ticheli.

Contemporary: Works by Julie Giroux, Kevin Day, Omar Thomas, Valerie Coleman, Sonia Morales-Matos, Caroline Shaw, Florence Price, Randall Standridge, Alexandra Gardner, Carol Brittin Chambers, and John Mackey

## **AWARDS & HONORS**

- SphinxConnect Fellowship Recipient – 2024
- SphinxConnect Fellowship Recipient – 2025
- Artistic Excellence Scholarship Recipient – Peabody Conservatory - 2023
- Graduate Teaching Assistantship at Portland State University - 2021
- Bloomfield and Miller Conducting Scholarship, Portland State - 2022
- Presenter at the 2022 Northwest College Music Society Conference - 2022
- Western Band International Clinic Intercollegiate Honor Band Musician, Cello - 2022
- Recipient of Sam Houston State University School of Music Scholarship - 2012-2017
- Semi-Finalist of Sam Houston State University Concerto Competition - 2015-2016

## **LANGUAGES**

English (native), Spanish (native)

## **TECHNICAL SKILLS**

- Finale, Sibelius, Dorico
- Digital Audio Workstations: Logic Pro, Pro Tools
- Adobe Creative Suite: Photoshop, Premiere Pro, Media Encoder
- MS Office 365
- Airtable
- SharePoint

## **PRESS & PUBLICATIONS**

**The Juilliard School Appoints New Preparatory Faculty Artists – The Violin Channel**

<https://theviolinchannel.com/the-juilliard-school-appoints-new-preparatory-faculty-artists/>

**Juilliard Welcomes Four New Members to the Preparatory Division Faculty**

<https://www.juilliard.edu/news/177571/juilliard-welcomes-four-new-members-preparatory-division-faculty>

**New Jersey Symphony Orchestra Announces New Artistic Team Member**

<https://www.facebook.com/share/p/1BSjk2JVhU/>

**Peabody Conservatory Recognizes Jonathan Villegas's joining the New Jersey Symphony Youth Orchestra Artistic Team**

<https://www.facebook.com/share/p/1FMn1T46Ev/>



**National Opera Association Recognizes Portland State University Opera for Mozart's *The Magic Flute***

<https://www.facebook.com/share/p/19tAJyVVTc/>

**Introducing Jonathan Villegas: The Newest Addition to DC's Different Drummers**

[https://dcedd.org/2023/10/22/introducing-jonathan-villegas-the-newest-addition-to-dcs-different-drummers/?fbclid=IwY2xjawOG4I9leHRuA2FlbQIxMABicmlkETFMTmllobmdKNHB4MFNnZG9Lc3J0YwZhchBfaWQQMjIyMDM5MTc4ODIwMDg5MghjYWxsc2l0ZQEyAAEetu7UrbgmrUPIm6kYuJqYYB1vA-MtkP3M2LzGt7ju39y7MqxxTiCxCdU4J0M\\_aem\\_dVxhNpsKzyEMIUL8WV880g](https://dcedd.org/2023/10/22/introducing-jonathan-villegas-the-newest-addition-to-dcs-different-drummers/?fbclid=IwY2xjawOG4I9leHRuA2FlbQIxMABicmlkETFMTmllobmdKNHB4MFNnZG9Lc3J0YwZhchBfaWQQMjIyMDM5MTc4ODIwMDg5MghjYWxsc2l0ZQEyAAEetu7UrbgmrUPIm6kYuJqYYB1vA-MtkP3M2LzGt7ju39y7MqxxTiCxCdU4J0M_aem_dVxhNpsKzyEMIUL8WV880g)

**Portland State University Research Article for *Subito* 2022**

**Research Resort – Libby Larsen's *Scudding* for Solo Cello: An Analysis of One of the Few Solo Cello Works by a Female Composer**

<https://pdxscholar.library.pdx.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1004&context=subito>