

JAVIER MONTILLA

A native of Caracas, Venezuela, flutist Javier Montilla began studying music at the age of seven through The National Network of Youth and Children's Orchestras of Venezuela (also known as *El Sistema*). During his fifteen years as a student in *El Sistema*, Javier gathered valuable experience playing in four of its orchestras. In 1993, he won The National Competition for Youth Soloists in Venezuela, sponsored by the Venezuela Symphony Orchestra, and subsequently joined that Orchestra. In addition to *El Sistema*, Javier also studied with Raimond Guiot at the Nice Summer School in France, and Michel Debost at The Oberlin Conservatory of Music. Additionally, He participated in master classes with Jorge Caryevschi, Shigenori Kudo, Paul Edmund Davis, Carol Wincenc, and Jeanne Baxtresser, and private lessons with Glenn Egner.

Javier received a Bachelor of Music degree from The University Institute of Music in Caracas in 1997, where his major teachers were Víctor Rojas and José Antonio Naranjo. Later, he was awarded a Master of Music degree in flute performance from the University of Colorado at Boulder in 2003 as a student of Alexa Still. While at CU Boulder Javier won both the First Prize in The Ekstrand Memorial Competition (the first wind player in its history to win this competition) and the Honor Concerto Competition. In 2004 he began his doctoral studies at The University of Nebraska-Lincoln, where he also won the UNL Graduate Concerto Competition, was awarded the Hixson-Lied fellowship, and served as teaching assistant to John Bailey. He received a Doctor of Musical Arts degree in 2010.

Since 2007 to 2016 Javier resided in his native Venezuela, where he worked for *El Sistema* as flute teacher and woodwind instructor. He also founded The National Flute Association of Venezuela and served as its executive director and as editor-in-chief of the first Venezuelan flute magazine *Aibú*.

Javier has been a professor at Doane College (Crete, Nebraska) and The Simón Bolívar University of Caracas, among other institutions. He has taught masterclasses in Santa Fe, Argentina, with the Hixson-Lied Foundation's support, and in recent years, through *El Sistema*, he has been invited to teach in Jamaica, Guatemala, Ecuador, Italy, Uruguay, Brasil, and El Salvador. As a performer, he is a founding member of the National Flute Orchestra of Venezuela, the ensemble Pabellón sin Baranda, and a duet with guitarist Pedro Andrés Pérez. He has also been a member of the "Miquirebo" Flute Quartet of Venezuela, The Woodwind Quintet "Maslanka," and "Mucinética" Quintet in Venezuela. In Seattle, where he resided from 2016 to 2021, he was a member of the "Agermos" Chamber Music Project, "Sabrosón" (Latin music group) and "Mochima" (Venezuelan music group). He has participated in recordings with some of these groups and in 2016, he released a solo recording, entitled "Romance en la Lejanía." Javier currently lives in Hayward, California.