

NATIONAL CONFERENCE OF KEYBOARD PEDAGOGY 2019, KEYBOARD LAB SESSION
Thursday, July 25, 2019, Location: Magnolia BC, Time: 9-9:50am

**The Power of Piano Ensembles:
Building Collaboration, Musicianship, and Community**

By Laura Silva

The **inspiration** of this project has initially come from world known music education and social development programs originated in Venezuela -and replicated throughout the world- that have addressed social issues through music. Some links of interest are listed below:

El Sistema, National Network of Youth and Children Orchestras of Venezuela (1975)

- Stodtmeier, Maria & Smaczny Paul. "Documentary El Sistema, Music to change life" *Medici.Tv* video, 2:58 (complete duration 1h40min). 2009. https://www.medicivideo.com/en/documentaries/el-sistema/?utm_source=facebook&utm_medium=cpc&utm_campaign=20180328_el%20sistema
- Sistema Global. "About". Sistema Global, Friends of El Sistema Worldwide. <https://sistemaglobal.org/about/> (accessed July 7, 2019)
- El Sistema USA. "News & Events". El Sistema USA. <https://elsistemausa.org/news-events/> (accessed July 7, 2019)

Schola Cantorum de Venezuela (1964), program "Construir Cantando" (1988)

- "UO Today Show #394 Maria Guinand." YouTube video, 29:05. Posted by "University of Oregon", Dec 30, 2008. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ks6R6AxZLUE>
- "Schola Cantorum de Venezuela - Building Through Singing." YouTube video, 14:39. Posted by "LA Master Chorale", Oct 28, 2015. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1r8BBjTa970> (English closed caption)

Piano Ensembles

The Piano Ensembles Project (2014) was created in Venezuela and it has been implemented in the US (Athens Community School of Music, Ohio University Collegiate Chapter, Ohio University, 2017). These links show some of the work that has been done so far:

- "Documentary 'Piano ensembles', by Laura Silva (2016)." YouTube video, 21:39. Posted by "Mozarteum Caracas", Dec 29, 2016. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4lG0VYGv7ck> (English closed caption)
- "Waltz of the flowers by Youth Ensemble three pianos four hands and percussion." YouTube video, 9:33. Posted by "Laura Silva", Apr 05, 2015. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rFDAS_yWGTs
- "In the Hall of the Mountain King - William Tell, E. Grieg/G. Rossini/ arr. L Silva." YouTube video, 3:20. Posted by "Laura Silva", Apr 27, 2019. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Yvg_qu7zDfM

Implementation tips

- Suitable for piano studios, music schools, summer programs, college projects, piano student's and teacher's organizations

- Planning the course: availability of pianos, time period, number of sessions, scheduling concerts, organizing groups (Everyone is welcome!)
- Rehearsals: Lesson plan + flexibility + creativity
- Repertoire selection: Attention to levels and characteristics of the group

NCKP Jul25th Keyboard Lab Ensemble

Samples of piano ensembles arranged by L. Silva:

- Old Mac Donald Had A Farm (Traditional), published by Piano Safari
- Ode to Joy (Beethoven), published by Piano Safari
- By the Light of the Moon (French Traditional)
- Tambourine (J. P. Rameau)
- Montagues and Capulets, from Romeo and Juliet (S. Prokofiev)

Take away for further analysis and professional development:

- How my work as a piano teacher could be related to my community?
- What is the importance of considering social issues in my piano teaching environment?
- Could I implement (more) group activities to motivate and engage my students to piano practice?
- How could I prepare pianists to collaborate with other musicians from early stages?
- Group piano instruction and performance goals: What are the benefits of piano students experiencing the stage from a collective perspective?
- Would I like to get together with other colleagues to perform piano ensembles?
- What can I relate from this presentation to my daily work and more long-term goals?

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