

Violist **Willy Sucre** is a member of the New Mexico Philharmonic and is the driving force behind the "Willy Sucre & Friends" concerts. Born in La Paz, Bolivia, Sucre studied at the Conservatorio Nacional de Música in La Paz; Colby College Chamber Music Institute in Waterville, Maine; Mannes School of Music in New York; and the Peabody Conservatory in Baltimore, Maryland.

He was conductor and music director of the Albuquerque Philharmonic Orchestra, assistant conductor and principal violist of the Canada Symphony Orchestra in Montreal, assistant conductor and assistant principal violist of the New Mexico Symphony Orchestra, and principal violist and guest conductor of the National Symphony of Bolivia, the Chamber Orchestra of La Paz, and the Albuquerque Chamber Orchestra. As a chamber musician, Sucre was the founder of the Cuarteto Boliviano, guest violist with various chamber music ensembles, and for ten years the violist of the Helios String Quartet.

Sucre's experience includes extensive chamber music concerts, lectures, school demonstrations, CD recordings, and television performances throughout South, Central, and North America. He spends most of his summers in South America looking for new works of chamber music by modern composers and encouraging composers to write new pieces, especially piano quartets. He enjoys performing with ensembles of diverse instrumentation.

**Guillermo Figueroa** is artistic director of The Figueroa Music and Arts Project, an innovative organization that combines music with other art forms. He is the new music director and conductor of the Lynn Philharmonia and is also music director of the Music in the Mountains Festival in Durango, Colorado. Additionally, he is the former music director of both the New Mexico Symphony and the Puerto Rico Symphony. With this last orchestra, he performed to critical acclaim at Carnegie Hall in 2003, the Kennedy Center in 2004, and Spain in 2005.

Figueroa is a Berlioz specialist; he created the most comprehensive Berlioz festival in the United States in 2003 for the composer's bicentennial. An advocate for new music, he and the NMSO won an Award for Adventurous Programming from the League of American Orchestras in 2007.

A renowned violinist as well, Figueroa was concertmaster of the New York City Ballet, and a founding member and concertmaster of the Orpheus Chamber Orchestra. His recording of Ernesto Cordero's violin concertos for the Naxos label received a Latin Grammy nomination in 2012. Accomplished on the viola, Figueroa performs frequently as guest of the Fine Arts, American, Amernet, and Orion string quartets. He is a regular performer at the Santa Fe Chamber Music Festival, Music in the Vineyards in California, and Music from Angel Fire.

Figueroa studied with his father and uncle at the Conservatory of Music of Puerto Rico. At the Juilliard School his teachers were Oscar Shumsky and Felix Galimir. His conducting studies were with Harold Farberman in New York.

**Ivonne Figueroa** began her musical studies at the age of five with her father Guillermo, her aunts Carmelina and Angelina, and her uncle Narciso Figueroa, members of Puerto Rico's most distinguished musical family. She was also a pupil of Pablo Casals, Rudolf Serkin, Claude Franck and Felix Galimir. In 1966 she was awarded the Pablo Casals Scholarship by the maestro himself, to study at the Marlboro Music Festival in Vermont. She has performed in Europe, Central America, and the Caribbean, and has been a soloist with orchestras in Germany and across the United States.

In 1974 Figueroa was the first artist from the Western Hemisphere to win a prize at the famous Robert Schumann International Piano Competition in East Germany, competing with 98 pianists from around the world. She has performed extensively with her brother, violinist Guillermo Figueroa (The Figueroa Duo) and the two were finalists in the International Violin and Piano Duo in Munich, Germany. They toured Spain in 1982.

Figueroa holds a doctorate from New York University and has been involved with the music education of children in Puerto Rico. At present she is a professor at the Faculty of Education at the University of Puerto Rico, Rio Piedras Campus.

Cellist **James Holland** is a native of Pensacola, Florida. He holds degrees in cello performance from the University of Alabama and the Eastman School of Music. For two years, James was a member of the New World Symphony, a Miami-based training orchestra under the direction of Michael Tilson Thomas. In 1996, Holland was appointed principal cellist of the Charleston (South Carolina) Symphony Orchestra, a position he held until his relocation to Albuquerque in 2007 with his wife, violinist Megan Julyan Holland. He performs frequently with most of New Mexico's musical organizations, including Albuquerque Chamber Soloists, Chatter, The Figueroa Project, the Placitas Artists Series, Santa Fe Symphony, and Santa Fe Pro Musica. He spends his summers in Breckenridge, Colorado as principal cellist of the Breckenridge Music Festival orchestra, a position he has held since 1998. He can also be heard performing the music of Duke Ellington with jazz legends Eddie Daniels and Roger Kellaway on the 2013 IPO Recording release, *Duke at the Roadhouse: Live in Santa Fe*, which was recently named Best Jazz Album of the Year by L'Académie du Jazz in Paris, France. Holland was invited by Daniels and Kellaway to perform with them again at the 2013 Detroit Jazz Festival. He maintains a large, active private teaching studio.