

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.

La Catrina String Quartet, comprised of Daniel Vega-Albela and Simón Gollo, violin; Jorge Martínez Ríos, viola; and Jorge Espinoza, cello, is currently in residence at New Mexico State University. The quartet is nationally and internationally recognized as the new vanguard for contemporary Latin American quartet repertoire. The quartet tours regularly throughout the United States and Mexico and has received important awards and recognitions, such as Western Michigan University's All University Research and Creative Scholar Award and the North Carolina Arts Council cARTwheels 2009 and 2010 touring program. Their three-fold mission includes a deep commitment to the cultivation of new works by living composers from throughout the Americas, the programming of existing Latin American works rarely performed, and bringing fresh interpretation to classical, romantic, and twentieth century works.

During the summer of 2010, La Catrina Quartet commissioned a new work from Puerto Rican composer Roberto Sierra. Funded by Symphony Space in New York City, Sierra's *Cuarteto No. 2* was premiered in May of 2011 for the New Music Festival, "Wall to Wall Sonidos." In 2014, La Catrina performed the world premiere of a string quartet by Carlos Sánchez Gutiérrez, one of Mexico's most prestigious and celebrated composers. Also, in 2014, their first commercially released CD, *América Latina: A Musical Canvas*, was nominated for a Latin Grammy award.

Recent and future collaborations featuring American composers and artists include recording with renowned tuba player James Shearer, along with a recording of works for string quartet and various instruments by American composer Zae Munn.