

# 2020 Southern Regional Assessment

## Adjudicators



# Dr. Jean Montes

## Stage Performance Adjudicator

An accomplished conductor, educator, clinician, lecturer, and performer, Dr. Jean Montès is passionate about challenging and stimulating audiences and musicians alike. He is the Director of Orchestral Studies and Coordinator of Strings at Loyola University in New Orleans, Louisiana where he conducts orchestral ensembles

and teaches conducting and string pedagogy courses for music education majors. In addition to his responsibilities at Loyola University, Montès is the Artistic Director of The Greater New Orleans Youth Orchestra (GNOYO) where conducts the Symphony Orchestra.

In recent years, Montès has held orchestral leadership positions at Virginia Commonwealth University, St. Ambrose University, the University of Iowa, and with the Waynesboro Symphony Orchestra, the Bay Youth Orchestras of Virginia, and the Greater Twin Cities Youth Symphonies.

Growing up in Port-Au-Prince, Haiti, Montès studied the cello at the Holy Trinity School of Music. He left Haiti after winning a full scholarship to pursue his bachelor's degree in cello performance at Duquesne University in Pittsburgh, PA. He then received an assistantship at the University of Akron in Ohio where he also earned his masters in music education. He completed his Doctorate of Musical Arts in orchestral conducting at the University of Iowa under the tutelage of Dr. William LaRue Jones. His dissertation topic is An Annotated Translation from French to English of the History of Music in Haiti. He is presently focusing his research on the performance and promotion of orchestral works by Haitian composers. A musician and conductor who enthusiastically promotes music of all world cultures, Dr. Montès is in constant demand as a conductor, clinician, judge and lecturer with orchestras and schools at all levels throughout the country. His unique approach to repertoire selection and rehearsal techniques enables him to connect, to be effective and admired by audiences and musicians of all ages. Most recent appearances include guest conducting the Virginia Symphony Orchestra, The Richmond Symphony Orchestra, and the Cedar Rapids Symphony Orchestra, giving clinics in Las Vegas and at the Midwest Clinic and performances of Mozart's The Magic Flute with the VCU Opera Theatre. He enjoys collaborating with organizations representing the full spectrum of the arts. Montès led an orchestra in a sold out performance of Prokofiev's *Romeo and Juliet* Ballet in collaboration with the Metropolitan Ballet project in the Twin Cities. Additionally, he was appointed by the mayor of Minneapolis to serve as the 2004 Co-Chair of Minneapolis Mosaic, a summer project which celebrates and showcases the talents of over 150 culturally diverse artistic and performance groups from the Minneapolis area. Montès led the creation and the first performance of the Minneapolis Mosaic Symphony Orchestra at Orchestra Hall in Minneapolis on July 9th, 2004. The orchestra was made of musicians from the Twin Cities metro area bringing together professional, teachers, community and student musicians creating this fascinating, true mosaic of an orchestra. The performance featured the world premiere of *Mosaic: Cedar and Lake* composed by Carry John Franklin. Upcoming guest conducting engagements will take him to cities such as Las Vegas, Minneapolis, Richmond, Stafford county and Orlando.

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A talented cellist and orchestral musician in his own right, Montès has performed recitals at the Lawrence University Conservatory, in Haiti, and with the Fox Valley, Green Bay, Johnstown and Altoona Symphonies. He also worked as a cello specialist at the Lawrence University Arts Academy and coached youth orchestra cello and viola sections and chamber music in New York, Connecticut, Wisconsin, Illinois, Iowa, Oregon, Minnesota, Florida and Virginia. Montès' experience goes beyond the stage, as he is passionate about education and spent four years in the Fox Valley Area School District (Wisconsin) teaching K-12 strings and conducting multiple ensembles. He spends his summers teaching strings and directing ensembles at summer music festivals in the U.S. and at the Holy Trinity Music Camp in Haiti where he has been the Assistant Director.

Dr. Montès and his wife, Sarah, reside in New Orleans with their five-year-old son, Jaz Léonard and newborn son Soley Mica both of whom Montès considers to be his proudest achievements. In his spare time, Montès enjoys playing chamber music with friends and sports such as soccer, squash, badminton, biking and ping-pong. Truly an artist, musician and conductor who embrace the cultural and artistic diversity of the world, he is one who brings the highest level of dedication and enthusiasm to his life profession and all those he serves. In addition to his responsibilities at Loyola, Dr. Montès is the Artistic Director of The Greater New Orleans Youth Orchestra (GNOYO) where he oversees all artistic operations and conducts the most advanced orchestra, the Symphony.



## Tamatha Holt

### Stage Performance Adjudicator

Tamatha Holt is Briarcrest Christian School's Elementary Orff Music Specialist, String Orchestra, Chorus and Musical Theatre Director. Mrs. Holt received formal training in music starting at the age of five on violin, eventually adding viola and piano. She received her Bachelor of Music degree from Louisiana State University, and a Masters of Music from Rutgers University. She is currently a professional musician and performs regularly in the Memphis community and surrounding regions.

Mrs. Holt has performed with the Jackson, Tupelo, Paducah and Corinth Symphonies, and appears frequently in the orchestra for musicals at Playhouse on the Square, Circuit Playhouse, Theater Memphis and Hattiloo Theater. She has been an instructor and musical director for New Day Children's Theater in Collierville, and the Summer Youth Conservatory through Playhouse on the Square. Mrs. Holt has toured with the Jeunesses Musicales World Orchestra throughout Europe and Asia. She has also performed with such artists as Ray Charles, Yo-Yo Ma and Bobby McFerrin. Mrs. Holt is a music contractor through her own company, Serenade, Inc., which provides music for special occasions

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# Molly Goforth

## Stage Performance Adjudicator

Molly Goforth is a performer and teacher based in Lafayette, Louisiana. She is an active chamber and orchestral musician, performing in over 50 events annually. Ms. Goforth is the principal cellist of the Baton Rouge Symphony and is a frequent performer of chamber music with the Baton Rouge-based group **Magnolia Strings**. Molly also performs with the Acadiana Symphony Orchestra and the Lake Charles Symphony. She has worked as a recording artist for various groups, including the Grammy nominated artist Marc Broussard and the Grammy nominated group **Bonsoir, Catin**.

Ms. Goforth maintains an active private studio in addition to teaching high school string orchestra and at universities in Lafayette Parish and in Lake Charles. Her private students are regularly accepted into the Louisiana All-State Orchestra, the LPSS Gifted & Talented program, participate in the Acadiana Symphony Youth Orchestra, UL-Lafayette Orchestra, and are employed by various churches and other organizations as gigging musicians.

Prior to moving to Louisiana, she taught through the nationally-recognized Scrollworks program in Birmingham, AL as well as the Birch Creek Fine Arts Center in Door County, WI. She has had the opportunity to perform with noted musicians including the world-renowned vocalists Julianne Baird, Renée Fleming and Kristin Chenoweth; violinists Sarah Chang and Yevgeny Kutik; pianists Jeremy Denk and Lang Lang; guitarist Sharon Isbin, and saxophonist Branford Marsalis. Ms. Goforth received her Master's degree in cello performance from DePaul University in Chicago, her Bachelor's degree from the University of Louisville and holds Suzuki Teacher Certifications through cello book 3. Ms. Goforth has studied privately with Stephen Balderston, Alan Harris, Darrett Adkins, Craig Hultgren, Alice Ann O'Neal and Paul York.



# Dr. Lin He

## Sight-Reading Adjudicator

Violinist *Lin He* made his Carnegie Hall debut in November 2014, after a performance there earlier that year with principal players from the Metropolitan Opera, New York Philharmonic and

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Philadelphia Orchestra. Over the past seasons, he has made his [Rapides Symphony Orchestra](#) debut with the *Korngold Concerto* and the Lake Charles Symphony debut with the *Sibelius Concerto*.

2016–2017 season of concerts include Beethoven complete Sonatas for Violin and Piano with pianist Gregory Sioles in multiple cities; duo concerto appearance with violinist Espen Lilleslatten; and chamber music collaboration with Shanghai String Quartet and violinist Charles Castleman.

He has presented recitals at universities across the United States and China. Most recently, he performed solo recitals and gave master classes at Arizona State University, Florida State University, San Francisco State University, University of Houston, University of Las Vegas, and University of North Texas.

As an orchestral player, Mr. He has performed with the Shanghai Symphony, [Rochester Philharmonic](#) and New World Symphony. He is a regular addition to the Louisiana Philharmonic Orchestra.

Summer festival appearances have taken Mr. He to venues such as the [Music Academy of the West](#), the [Tanglewood Music Center](#) and the Aspen Music Festival. Lin He has been a laureate of the Padesta Solo Competition and the ASTA competition.

Mr. He is now serving as the Associate Professor of Violin at the [Louisiana State University School of Music](#) and the Associate Concertmaster of the [Baton Rouge Symphony](#). During the summer, he teaches at the [Sewanee Summer Music Festival](#) and [Bayview Music Festival](#).

Born in Shanghai, China, Mr. He began his musical training at the age of five. Mr. He received his doctorate from the [Eastman School of Music](#), where he studied under the tutelage of Zvi Zeitlin. Other major influences include Sylvia Rosenberg and Paul Kantor.

His CD release from [Centaur Records](#) of *French Sonatas for Violin and Piano* with pianist Gregory Sioles received favorable reviews.



## DR. VICTOR CORREA-CRUZ

### Sight-Reading Adjudicator

Violinist/Conductor Víctor Correa-Cruz has developed an intense and diversified career in the United States and Europe. As a soloist, he has toured with Ceske Budegovice Symphony, University of South Carolina Symphony, Frolov Chamber Players, Nis Symphony Orchestra, Orquesta Sinfónica de Extremadura, Orquesta de la Comunidad de Madrid, Camerata del Prado, Orquesta de Cámara de Badajoz, Orquesta de Zaragoza, and

“Queen Sofía” Chamber Orchestra.

He has been awarded several prizes such as the Jeunesse Musicales Award, “Villa de Madrid” 1st Prize, and Laureate at the 4th International Quartet Competition of Cremona (Italy).

He is a faculty member of the Stamford International Music Festival (SIMF) in England, where he teaches violin and performs with international artists in Chamber Music Series every summer. The British media refer to the SIMF as the “European Retreat for Chamber Music”. He performs regularly as a member of the Laertes Piano Trio based in Madrid and is a founding member of

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the Mediterranean String Trio, resident ensemble at the “Francisco Tárrega” International Music Festival (Castellón, Spain).

Víctor Correa-Cruz has given master classes in Spain, Italy, England, Serbia, Switzerland and the USA. He has shared the stage with renowned artists such as Luiz de Moura Castro, Alberto Nosè, Sven Arne-Tepl, Miriam Kirby, Ashley Wass, Paloma González, Andrés Díaz and Wayman Chin. In Austin Texas, at the Austin Chamber Music Festival, Dr. Cruz has offered master classes and performed at its prestigious cycle, where other first-class artists such as the Tokyo String Quartet, Fine Arts String Quartet, Viena Piano Trio, Matt Haimovitz, Christopher O’Riley and Michelle Schumann, perform regularly.

Born in Spain, Víctor Correa-Cruz earned his degrees in Violin and Chamber Music at El Escorial and Madrid Conservatories, where he studied with violinist Pedro León. He was a Violin major at Indiana University (USA) where he finished his Master’s Degree as a student of Nelli Shkolnikova, and participated in both Joseph Gingold and Franco Gulli’s master classes. Dr. Cruz also attended courses at the Escuela Superior Reina Sofía (Madrid) where he was a student of Zakhar Bron for two years.

The critics have acknowledged his talent as a conductor on many occasions. In 2005 he became principal conductor of the “Adolfo Salazar” Symphony Orchestra based in Madrid. Since then he has toured throughout Spain and other European countries with successful performances praised by the media.

In 2010 Víctor Correa-Cruz founded the Orquesta de Cámara Extremeña, with selected musicians from Extremadura (Spain). Acting as its concertmaster and conductor, the ensemble has been acclaimed as one of the most solid and promising groups of the Spanish new generation.

He has conducted at International Orchestra Festivals in Spain (Murcia, Zaragoza, El Escorial and Extremadura) and has been invited to conduct in Europe (Portugal, Italy, Serbia, Poland) and North and South America. His tours leading the Christmas Classical Orchestra presenting music for the New Year’s Concert, have received enthusiastic reviews. He has guest-conducted at the renowned “State Opera Ruse” in Bulgaria.

As a scholar, Víctor Correa-Cruz has published José Luis Turina: Aesthetic and Stylistic Features through the study of his Concerto for Violin and Orchestra (University of South Carolina, 2005). He has written numerous articles for the Vitela Magazine, published by the Extremadura Culture Department, dealing with different topics related to arts and music. He has also rescued forgotten pieces by Spanish composer Salvador Bacarisse.

Before joining the faculty at Southeastern Louisiana University in 2017, Víctor Correa-Cruz was the head of the String Quartet Department at the Conservatorio Superior de Música de Salamanca (Spain) and taught Violin and Orchestra in Madrid, at the prestigious Conservatorio “Adolfo Salazar”. A significant number of his students have won national and international awards.

Along with his academic activities, he keeps developing an intense artistic career as a chamber musician, soloist and conductor.