



FERNANDA LASTRA

CONDUCTOR

Born in Mar del Plata, Argentina, Fernanda Lastra is a passionate and creative conductor recognized for her artistic leadership and engaging performances. Committed to featuring diverse voices in concert halls, Lastra is dedicated to creating well-balanced programs that enhance the overall concert experience, as she believes in the power of music to unite, heal, and develop emotional intelligence.

Fernanda Lastra holds the position of Assistant-Fellow Conductor for the Buffalo Philharmonic Orchestra, under the mentorship of JoAnn Falletta. In this role Lastra serves as an assistant conductor, cover conductor, and main conductor for various BPO performances, including the Family Kids series, Music for Youth concerts, and community engagement performances. Additionally, she serves a member of the BPO's artistic team, the BPO's music education committee, and the BPO's Diversity Council. **In May 2025, Lastra is scheduled to make her debut with the Buffalo Philharmonic in the classics series** featuring pianist Avery Gagliano.

As an assistant and cover conductor, Lastra had worked alongside esteemed conductors such as JoAnn Falletta, Giancarlo Guerrero, Maximiano Valdés, Méliisse Brunet, Gerard Schwarz, Mei-Ann Chen, Joseph Caballé-Domenech, Laura Jackson and Michael Francis, among others.

Apart from her leadership role with the Buffalo Philharmonic Orchestra, Lastra regularly collaborates as a guest conductor with professional and youth orchestras. Upcoming collaborations include engagements with the South Bend Symphony, the Pennsylvania Chamber Orchestra, the Fort Wayne Philharmonic and the Minnesota Orchestra.

2024 CAREER ADVANCE
AWARD RECIPIENT

Women in Classical Music Symposium
Dallas Symphony Orchestra

PORTFOLIO Highlights

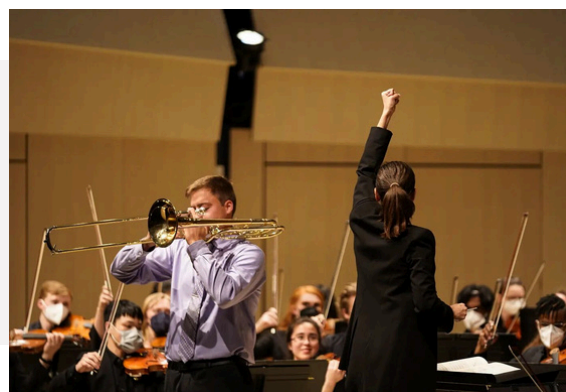


COLERIDGE-TAYLOR The Bamboula, excerpt (4')

[Access video](#)

ROTA Trombone Concerto, excerpts (8')

[Access video](#)



WILLIAMS, Amy "Flood Lines" (6')

[Access video](#)

STRAUSS Die Fledermaus Ov., excerpt (5')

[Access video](#)



ENGAGEMENTS

2024

Guest Conductor – **South Bend Symphony**

Dia de los Muertos Concert



Guest Conductor – **Pacific Conservatory of Music**

Featuring the US premiere of an Argentinian work

Guest Conductor – **The Birch Festival**

Stravinsky's Soldier's Tale (three full performances)

Cover/Assistant Conductor – **Nashville Symphony**

Giancarlo Guerrero, conductor (2023)



2025

Guest Conductor – **Pennsylvania Chamber Orchestra**

Family Concert

Guest Conductor – **Fort Wayne Philharmonic**

Chamber Orchestra series

Classics series debut - **Buffalo Philharmonic**

Berlioz, Saint-Saëns, Mendelssohn

Cover Conductor – **Minnesota Orchestra**

Edward Gardner, conductor



SAMPLE PROGRAMS

CLASSICS

“From River to River: Symphonic Streams”

ELLINGTON, Giggling Rapids (from “The River”) orch. by Ron Collier (4’)

SMETANA, Má Vlast, No. 2. Vltava (The Moldau) (12’)

RIPPER, Rio São Francisco, Imagem Sinfônica (9’)

Intermission

SCHUMANN, Symphony No.3, op. 97, “Rhenish”

“Celebrating the Americas”

FRANK, Apu, Tone Poem (13’)

FREIBERG, Latin American Chronicles, clarinet concerto (20’)

Intermission

DVOŘÁK, Symphony No.9 “From the New World” (50’) - **OR** -

COPLAND, Appalachian Spring Suite (23’) + **BERNSTEIN**, West Side Story (Mason) (8’)

FAMILY

“Stories, Tales and Adventures”

OFFENBACH, Orpheus in the Underworld - Galop (2’)

TCHAIKOVSKY, Sleepy Beauty Suite, Waltz (5’)

KAHLER, Elyse, Lullaby for Orchestra (3’)

GRIEG, Suite No. 1, Op. 46, In the Hall of the Mountain King (4’)

MOZART, The Marriage of Figaro Overture (4’)

SCHIFFRIN, Mission Impossible Theme (Custer arr.) (3’)

LOPEZ-KROGSTAD, Music from Frozen (7’)

ROSSINI, William Tell Overture. Finale (2’)

SPECIAL

Hispanic Heritage Month

(Spain) **DE FALLA**, La Vida Breve: Spanish Dance No. 1 (arr Chapelier) (4’)

(Cuba) **WHITE**, La Bella Cubana (strings) (4’)

(Colombia) **MEJIA**, Aquarela for orchestra (3’)

(Venezuela) **ROMERO**, Fuga con Pajarillo (7’)

(Argentina) **GARDELIN**, (Argentina) “Furtivo” (tango) (4’)

(Peru) **GRANDA**, La Flor de la Canela (3’)

(Mexico) **MARQUEZ**, Danzon No.2 (9’)

(Puerto Rico) **HERNANDEZ**, El Cumbanchero (4’)

EXPERIENCE

Concerts created and/or conducted at the Buffalo Philharmonic Orchestra

2022 - 23

Hispanic Heritage Month Concert
Music for Youth, 1-4 Grade, "Musical Passport" – 10-15 concerts
Music for Youth, 5-8 Grade, "Our Musical Heritage" – 10-15 concerts
Kids series: "Symphonic Spooktacular"
Kids series: "Jingle Bell Jam"
Holiday Pops concert
"Buffalo West Side Connection" Concert
Kids series: "Wild Symphony" by Dan Brown
Side by Side with the Buffalo Academy for Performing Arts
"June in Buffalo" New Music Festival concert
Summer season: 7 outdoor concerts

2023 - 24

BPO Pops series: Aida Cuevas
Music for Youth, 1-4 Grade, "The orchestra's secret formula" – 10-15 concerts
Music for Youth, 5-8 Grade, "What inspires a composer?" – 10-15 concerts
Kids series: "Symphonic Spooktacular"
Pops series: Neil Diamond by Jay White
Kids series: "Jingle Bell Jam"
"Buffalo West Side Connection" Concert
Kids series: "Kids sing"
Side by Side with Great Buffalo Youth Orchestra
Side by side with Buffalo Academy for Performing Arts
BPO special: "Symphony of Illusions" with Michael Grandinetti
"June in Buffalo" New Music Festival concert
Summer season: 7 outdoor concerts

2024 - 25

Music for Youth, 1-4 Grade, "Low bridge, everybody down" – 10-15 concerts
Music for Youth, 5-8 Grade, "Erie Canal 200 anniversary" – 10-15 concerts
Kids series: "Symphonic Spooktacular"
Kids series: "Jingle Bell Jam"
BPO special: "Troup Vertigo"
Side by Side with Great Buffalo Youth Orchestra
Side by side with Buffalo Academy for Performing Arts
"Buffalo West Side Connection" Concert
Kids series: "Carnival of the Animals"
Classics series: "Mendelssohn's Italian"
"June in Buffalo" New Music Festival. TBD
Summer season: outdoor concerts

CONTACT



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