

ORLANDO COTTO

Cell: 240-483-9710

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EDUCATION

Artist Diploma in Marimba, 1997

Peabody Conservatory of Music, Johns Hopkins University

Graduate Studies in Marimba & Percussion, 1990–1993

Indiana University

Bachelor of Arts in Music, Cum Laude, 1990

Conservatory of Music of Puerto Rico

ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

Northern Illinois University

Assistant Professor of Percussion | 2001–2004

- Created and developed *Afro-Caribbean Percussion* curriculum
 - Co-directed Percussion Ensemble
 - Founded & Directed NIU Latin Jazz Ensemble
 - Taught undergraduate and graduate private lessons
 - Prepared students for degree recitals
 - Served on departmental and university committees
 - Recipient, Program Development Grant (2002)
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University of Delaware

Adjunct Faculty | 1997–2000; 2004–2021

- Co-directed Percussion Ensemble
 - Taught private percussion instruction
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Morgan State University Adjunct Faculty | 1996–1999

- Taught beginning percussion to majors and non-majors
 - Developed course materials and examinations
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PRIVATE & COMMUNITY TEACHING

Music & Arts – Ellicott City, MD | Instructor | 2023–Present

The Carter School of Music – Baltimore, MD | Faculty | 1994–2000; 2003–2022

Faculty, Birch Creek Music Performing Center, Egg Harbor, WI | 2001–2016

Visiting Artist, Arts Excel Program, Baltimore Symphony Orchestra

Howard Community College 2004 to 2007

LEADERSHIP & DIRECTING

Founder & Director, NIU Latin Jazz Ensemble (2000–2004)

Showcase Performance — Illinois Music Educators Convention (2004)

Music Director, *In the Heights* (Toby's Dinner & Show, 100+ performances, 2014)

Music Director, Boundless Musical Journey (2018)

SELECTED FESTIVALS & GUEST ARTIST APPEARANCES

Percussive Arts Society International Convention – Indianapolis

Guest Artist, IV International Marimba Festival – Tabasco, Mexico

Guest Artist, 10th International Marimba Festival – Tuxtla Gutiérrez, Chiapas, Mexico

Faculty, Nancy Zeltsman Marimba Festival – California

Trinidad and Tobago Jazz Festival with Liam Teague and Robert Chappell & Panoramic Band

Solo Artist, representing Peabody Institute – San José, Costa Rica

ORCHESTRAL ENGAGEMENTS

Baltimore Symphony Orchestra (David Zinman, conductor)

Puerto Rico Symphony Orchestra (Odón Alonso, conductor)

Festival Casals Symphony Orchestra

Baltimore Chamber Orchestra

Timpanist, International Chamber Orchestras of Puerto Rico

RECORDINGS (Selected)

Landmark: Afro-Cubans Music for the Marimba (2010)

Wild Hands (2005)

A Little Prayer (2001)

Caribeños: Latin American Music for the Concert Marimba (1998)

Collaborative recordings with Liam Teague, Rumba Club, Pharez Whitted, and San Juan Pop Orchestra, Edwin Colón Zayas, Giovanni Hidalgo, Juan Alamo, Andy Gonzalez and others

PUBLICATION

A Latin American Album for Marimba (2002)

Honey Rock Publishing

HONORS & AWARDS

Outstanding Individual Artist Award — Maryland State Arts Council (2000)

Career Development Grant — Peabody Conservatory of Music (1998)

First Prize — Yale Gordon Concerto Competition (1995)

Semi-final of the Thelonious Monk International Afro-Cuban Competition (2000)

REVIEWS

“Orlando establishes his credibility as an accomplished marimbist and interpretative musician.” — Percussive Notes

“Orlando is a percussive pillar.” — Downbeat Magazine

“Orlando Cotto is an artist of musical sensitivity and accomplished technique.” — The San Juan Star

“Orlando Cotto is the invaluable percussionist.” -- The Washington Post

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS & ENDORSEMENTS Educational Endorser: Yamaha, D’Addario ProMark, Latin Percussion, Sabian, Croaker Percussion Member: Percussive Arts Society