



## MUSIC TEACHERS

**Dante Cucurullo.** (Director of the Academy and chamber music groups.) Magna Cum Laude B.A. in Music from the Universidad Autónoma de Santo Domingo (UASD) and graduate from the Dominican Republic's National Conservatory of Music. Bold and daring in a conservative music environment, Dante Cucurullo has had a profound impact on contemporary music in Dominican Republic. A pioneering and widely acclaimed composer of electroacoustic music and scores for musical theater, Mr. Cucurullo is a pianist, percussionist, and one of our country's most respected music educators and conductors, who influenced in opening the doors of the National Conservatory of Music to avant garde and popular music. Mr. Cucurullo has been honored several times with the Talía de Plata for his remarkable musical theater scores, is a seven-time winner of the National Composition Prize José Reyes, and received the Cassandra Award for Classical music. among other national and international accolades. His career as music educator spans more than 40 years.

**Maria Irene Blanco** (Sub-director of the Academy, Piano Teacher and Music Educator). Current Director of the National Conservatory of Music, institution from which she graduated. She studied also at the Royal Conservatory of Music in Madrid, Spain, and graduated with a B.A. in Music from the Universidad Autónoma de Santo Domingo.

**Sonia Peralta Piña** (Professor of Music Theory and Reading) With a degree in music from the UASD, Summa Cum Laude, with over 40 years of teaching experience at the National Conservatory of Music, being a former deputy director of this institution.

**Francisco Mojica** (Flute teacher) Graduate of the National Conservatory of Music with outstanding notes; teaching experience of over 5 years. He has been a member of renowned bands and 1st Flute of the Juan Pablo Duarte Symphony Orchestra.

**Rafael Ramirez** (Guitar teacher) He has studied guitar and alto saxophone in the National Conservatory of Music. Teaching experience with the Children for the Arts National Foundation (FUNA-NART), Pablo Claudio Musical High School, among others.

**José Luis Urena** (Drum teacher) Graduated from the National Conservatory of Music; teaching experience with the Elila Mena Elementary Music School, among others, and orchestral experience with the Juan Pablo Duarte Symphony Orchestra of the National Conservatory of Music and the National Symphony Orchestra as a timpanist in both.

**Manuel Germán** (Violist) Bachelor in Music (BM) from Columbus State University, Master of Music (MM) from the University of Florida, protégé of Professor Suzuki in violin-violin formed in the Chicago Suzuki Institute. He has had an active career in the education of young musicians in the Dominican Republic; worked as general assistant of the Juvenile Orchestra System of the Dominican Republic and founder of the School of Fine Arts of the Hermanas Mirabal Province.