



Office for the Arts at Harvard

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MEDIA RELEASE

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The Office for the Arts at Harvard announces Tania León as Recipient of the Fall 2022 Luise Vosgerchian Teaching Award

COMPOSER, CONDUCTOR AND EDUCATOR TANIA LEÓN TO BE HONORED AT HARVARD ON NOVEMBER 14.

Photo Credit: Tania León by Gail Hadani

(Cambridge, MA)—The Office for the Arts at Harvard announces that Pulitzer Prize-winning composer, conductor and educator Tania León is the recipient of the Fall 2022 Luise Vosgerchian Teaching Award, which will be conferred in a special ceremony 4-5:30 p.m. Monday, November 14 at Agassiz Theatre, Harvard University. The event, which is free and open to the public, will feature bassist Devon Gates '23, flutist Mai Nguyen '23 and founder of the Harvard Students Composer Festival Veronica Leahy '23. A conversation with León will be moderated by host of the radio show and podcast *Under the Radar with Callie Crossley* on WGBH and Emmy Award-winning journalist Callie Crossley NF '83, IOP '02. Jack Megan, Director of the Office for the Arts, Carol Oja, William Powell Mason Professor of Music, and Carolyn Abbate, Paul and Catherine Buittenwieser University Professor and Chair of the Harvard University Department of Music, will also be presenters at the ceremony. The award is administered by the Office for the Arts at Harvard University, in consultation with the Department of Music.

Born in Havana, Cuba, Tania León is highly regarded as a composer, conductor, educator and advisor to arts organizations. Her orchestral work *Stride*, commissioned by the New York Philharmonic, was awarded the 2021 Pulitzer Prize in Music. A founding member of the Dance Theatre of Harlem, León instituted the Brooklyn Philharmonic Community Concert Series, co-founded the American Composers Orchestra's Sonidos de las Américas Festivals, was New Music Advisor to the New York Philharmonic and is the founder/Artistic Director of Composers Now, a presenting, commissioning and advocacy organization for living composers. She has been a guest lecturer and visiting artist at Harvard University, and the Harvard Wind Ensemble premiered her work *Cumba Cumbakin* in 2010.

Earlier this year, the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts announced León is one of five



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Honorees who will receive the 45th Kennedy Center Honors for lifetime artistic achievements on December 4 in Washington, DC.

Additional honors include the New York Governor's Lifetime Achievement, inductions into the American Academy of Arts and Letters and the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, and fellowship awards from ASCAP Victor Herbert Award and The Koussevitzky Music and Guggenheim Foundations, among others. León also received a proclamation for Composers Now by New York City Mayor, and the MadWoman Festival Award in Music (Spain). She has received Honorary Doctorate Degrees from Colgate University, Oberlin, SUNY Purchase College and The Curtis Institute of Music. León served as U.S. Artistic Ambassador of American Culture in Madrid, Spain. A CUNY (City University of New York) Professor Emerita, she was awarded a 2018 United States Artists Fellowship and Chamber Music America's 2022 National Service Award.

The [Luise Vosgerchian Teaching Award](#), which offers an honorarium of \$10,000 to a nationally recognized music educator, was established by Professor and Mrs. Ray A. Goldberg and the Max Goldberg Foundation to perpetuate the values and teaching skills represented by Professor Vosgerchian who, at her retirement from Harvard University in 1990, was Walter W. Naumburg Professor of Music Emerita in the Department of Music. The guidelines for the award require that the recipient embody the following qualities: selfless commitment; artistic conscience; a constant renewal of approach to subject matter; ability to motivate in a positive and creative way; a sincere interest in the development of the whole person; and the ability to present musical knowledge in a way that is applicable to other disciplines.

Previous recipients include **Rosephanye Powell**, composer and professor of voice at Auburn University; **André Watts**, Grammy Award-winning pianist and professor at Jacobs School of Music at Indiana University; **Gustavo Dudamel**, music and artistic director, Los Angeles Philharmonic, and Music Director, Simón Bolívar Symphony Orchestra of Venezuela; **Aaron Dworkin**, founder and former president of the Sphinx Organization; **Sweet Honey in the Rock**, the a cappella vocal group committed to creating music out of the rich textures of African American legacies and traditions; **Marin Alsop**, music director laureate of the Baltimore Symphony Orchestra, and chief conductor of the Vienna Radio Symphony Orchestra and the Ravinia Festival; **Gustav Meier**, music director, Greater Lansing (MI) Symphony Orchestra and Greater Bridgeport (Connecticut) Symphony; **Joan Panetti**, professor of music at the Yale University School of Music; **Curt Cacioppo**, professor of music in the Music Department of Haverford College; **Phyllis Curtin**, opera singer and Dean Emerita of Boston University's School for the Arts; **Lowell E. Lindgren**, professor of music at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology; **Elma Lewis**, arts educator, activist and founder of Boston's Elma Lewis School of Fine Arts; **Claire Mallardi**, lecturer on dramatic arts and artistic director emerita of the Office for the Arts/Harvard Dance Program; **Robert Mann**, founder and first violinist of the Juilliard String Quartet and a member of the Juilliard School Music Division faculty; co-



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recipients **Mark Churchill**, educator, conductor, cellist and Dean of New England Conservatory's Division of Preparatory and Continuing Education, and **Marylou Speaker Churchill**, violinist and member of the faculty of the New England Conservatory of Music (College and Preparatory School) and the Heifetz International Music Institute; and **Thomas G. Everett**, former Director of Bands at Harvard University and Jazz Advisor to the Office for the Arts at Harvard.

The **Office for the Arts at Harvard** (OFA) supports student engagement in the arts and integrates the arts into University life. Through its programs and services, the OFA teaches and mentors, fosters student art making, connects students to accomplished artists, commissions new work, and partners with local, national, and international constituencies. By supporting the development of students as artists and cultural stewards, the OFA works to enrich society and shape communities in which the arts are a vital part of life. Information: 617.495.8676, ofa@fas.harvard.edu, ofa.fas.harvard.edu.

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