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RON DAVIS ALVAREZ

TEACHER TRAINER AND CONDUCTOR FOR CHILDREN AND YOUTH ORCHESTRAS

“Ron Davis Alvarez is a man accustomed to making miracles”

The New York Times

Selected, in 2017, as one of the world's 50 best teachers by the Varkey Foundation, as part of the Global Teacher Prize, known as the Nobel Prize for teaching, Venezuelan Ron Davis Alvarez is specialized in training teachers for children and youth orchestras. He has lectured conferences, master classes and workshops with an emphasis on musical language, rhythm and harmony, with teachers from Venezuela, Colombia, Ecuador, Chile, Mexico, United States, Greenland, United Kingdom, Denmark, Italy, Germany, France, Croatia, Sweden, Finland, Cyprus, Turkey, Jordan, Lebanon, Kenya, South Korea, China and Greece, where he has taught in the Skaramagas refugee camp.

In 2016, Ron Davis Alvarez created in Gothenburg, Sweden, the Dream Orchestra with children and teens aged between 8 and 19 years, refugees from the violence in Syria, Afghanistan, Iraq, Iran, Palestine, Kurdistan, Albania, Angola, Eritrea and Somalia. The objective has been to integrate them into Swedish society. This group, which already has more than 60 members, is also distinguished because its musicians have never played an instrument before. Some students of musical education from the University of Gothenburg have practiced, with the guide of Alvarez, their teaching lessons with this orchestra.

The Göterbog Posten said about his work with the Dream Orchestra: "He has awakened the confidence of these young people and has provided them with reasons to have hope for the future. Ron Davis Alvarez has given them a reason to play: everyone can do it". The model of the Dream Orchestra is being emulated in several European countries.

As an ambassador of the Varkey Foundation, in 2018 Ron Davis Alvarez participates for the second consecutive time in the Global Education & Skills Forum, the most important education meeting in Dubai, reunited teachers from more than 179 countries. On this occasion, he makes a presentation at the conference *Why are arts and humanities important*

for 2030? In 2017 he participates, together with the director of Unesco, Irina Bokova, in the conference on education in emergency.

He has also lectured at the University of Gothenburg, the Vantaa Music Institute, Finland, and the Berwaldhallen, the Swedish Radio Symphony Orchestra theater.

Since September 2017, he is the mentor of the young aspiring teachers of the Pendo Amani organization, which operates in the city of Juja, in Kenya, whose purpose is to empower new community leaders. Currently they already have an orchestra that performs the sequential repertoire proposed by Alvarez, who teaches them through Skype or WhatsApp classes. He also supports El Sistema Grecia, which operates in the Skaramagas refugee camp and in the city of Atenas. He also supports a program in Lebanon, within a Palestinian refugee camp in the city of Sour.

In 2017 he conducted: the Gävle Symphony Orchestra, as part of the National Day of Sweden, in June; and the Nordic Chamber Orchestra, in October. In August, of the same year, he conducted, in Athens, Greece, the basic orchestra of the summer camp of El Sistema Europa as part of the Hellenic Festival of Athens that was held at the Odeon of Herodes Atticus. In November he traveled to Jordan to support the teachers who develop El Sistema Jordan.

Product of the renowned Venezuelan musical and social program, known as El Sistema, Alvarez was formed at Miranda State, Venezuela, as a violinist, orchestra conductor, teacher and cultural manager. He started teaching at the age of 14. On four occasions, he has been teaching coordinator and director to the activities of the basic orchestra of the summer musical camp Side by Side by El Sistema Sweden, with the participation of young musicians from more than 30 countries.

As a volunteer musician, Alvarez founded in 2011 an orchestra located 700 kilometers away from the Arctic Circle at the Uummannaq Children's House, in Greenland, run by Ann Andreasen. This is the first orchestra of Inuit children in El Sistema, where Alvarez worked for three years with children and teens who have traumas.

Until 2010, he was part of the Young Teachers and Conductors Program of El Sistema Venezuela. Between 2006 and 2009, he taught the Leveling Program at the University's Institute of Music Studies (now National Experimental University of Arts) and was on charge of conducting more than 1,000 children and teens in two Venezuelan music schools of El Sistema. Venezuelan violinist Víctor Vivas, who is part of the Simón Bolívar Symphony Orchestra, was his teacher.

Swedish filmmaker Erik Eger, who is producing a documentary named Passion, is documenting the educational work of Ron Davis Alvarez as a teacher and conductor. Alvarez has performed for the Queen Margaret II of Denmark, for former Secretary-General of the United Nations Ban Ki-moon and for Prince Daniel of Sweden. He directed, in December of 2017, a musical show for the Nobel Prize winner of Physics Kip Thorne and Gustavo Dudamel.

Ron Davis Alvarez is currently the Artistic Director of El Sistema Sweden, a model that replicates the program of his mentor, maestro José Antonio Abreu.