

Sonia Bruno Alfaro

Master in Music Violoncello Performance

Cellist • Performer • Educator • Recording Artist • Composer

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PROFESSIONAL PROFILE

Costa Rican cellist with extensive national and international experience as a soloist, orchestral musician, chamber performer, educator, and recording artist. Strong background in classical performance, studio recording, contemporary projects, and higher education teaching. Recognized for musical versatility, technical solidity, expressive playing, and collaborative artistry.

Sonia began her cello studies in 1991 in the National Institute of Music in San José, Costa Rica. Making her first international tours within the United States and Europe with the Youth Symphony Orchestra of where she had the opportunity to play at the prestigious Sala Saint Cecilia in Rome.

In 2003 she received a full scholarship at Loyola University New Orleans, where she obtained her bachelor's degree in music specialized in violoncello, later in 2007 she continues her studies at Louisiana State University (LSU) where graduated for her Master's degree in Music with an emphasis in Violoncello with Professor Dennis Parker (Student of soloist Janos Starker)

She has been a member of various orchestras such as Louisiana Philharmonic Orchestra, Baton Rouge Symphony Orchestra, Acadiana Symphony Orchestra, National Symphony Orchestra of Costa Rica, principal cellist of the Symphony Orchestra of the University of Costa Rica, Heredia Symphony Orchestra Philharmonic Orchestra of Costa Rica, among others.

In 2016 she was invited to be part of the Official Orchestra of the Al Bustan International Festival in Lebanon, and in 2017 participated at the Lerici Music Festival in Italy, where she performed several concerts under the direction of Gianluca Marciano.

Sonia was invited to perform with the Costa Rican Guitar Quartet at the International Music Festival in The Royal Opera House Muscat, Oman in 2023.

During the last 15 years she has been constantly involved in record productions for films and for symphony orchestras and recognized national artists, among them: Editus, Joaquin Yglesias, Humberto Vargas, Mal País, Alejandro Fernández, Carlos "Tapado" Vargas, Manuel Obregón, Manuel Montero, Debi Nova, Tamela Hedstrom, and also participated in international productions such as the song for the documentary "The Morning" with singer Alanis Morissette, guest cellist for HBO series "Ballers" in episode 1, season 2 and as solo cellist in studio sessions with Grammy Nominee Brandon "Blue" Hamilton.

In an interest of continuous education she has also been in master classes with prominent cellists and international artists such as the soloist Lynn Harrell, soloist María Kliegel, Eberhard Finke, Erick Kim, Ramon Jaffe, and Helga Winold.

Sonia is composing her own music where she shared it as a TEDx PuraVida Speaker in 2024

Sonia is currently an active member of the 3-time Grammy Award Winner band Editus with whom she participated in the Latin America 360 Tour, Co- founder of the band BaRock, Cello soloist, composer, and several music productions in Costa Rica, she is also session musician, recording music for international producer and Grammy Award winning Toby Sandoval and most recently participated in the World Music and Media retreat in Nosara and Nashville, performing with awarded and renowned artists and producers.

EDUCATION

National Institute of Music (Instituto Nacional de Música)

Cello and music studies | 1991–2003

Bachelor of Music (B.M.), Cello Performance

Loyola University New Orleans, LA, USA | 2003–2006

Teacher: **Allen Nisbet**

Master of Music (M.M.), Cello Performance

Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge, LA, USA | 2007–2009

Teacher: **Dennis Parker** (student of Janos Starker and Aldo Parisot)

MASTERCLASSES

- Maria Kliegel (Cologne Music Academy)
- Lynn Harrell (Rice University)
- Erick Kim (Cincinnati Symphony / Indiana University)
- Walter Vollhard (Freiburg Philharmonic)
- Eberhard Finke (Berlin Philharmonic under Karajan)
- Helga Winold (Indiana University)

LANGUAGES

- Spanish
- English
- Italian

SCHOLARSHIPS & AWARDS

- Full Scholarship, **Loyola University New Orleans**
- Full Scholarship, **University of Minnesota**
- Full Scholarship, **Louisiana State University**
- **Richense Endowment Scholarship**, LSU
- **LMA Award**, LSU

CERTIFICATIONS & TRAINING

- Suzuki Cello Book 1 – International Certification
- Suzuki Cello Book 2 – International Certification

INTERNATIONAL TOURS

- Costa Rica Youth Symphony – Interlochen Arts Academy, Michigan (2002)
- Nicaragua Tour (2002)
- Italy Tour (Venice, Cremona, Verona, Rome / Sala Santa Cecilia) – OSJ (2003)
- Loyola Chamber String Orchestra – Chicago (2004)
- Editus Latinoamérica 360 – Mexico (2012), Guatemala (2013)
- Al Bustan International Music Festival – Lebanon (2016)
- Orchestra Excellence (World Orchestra) – Italy (2017, 2018)
- Oman Muscat Royal Opera House 2022
- Italy 2023 soloist video clip Caruso
- Nashville 2024- 2025

ORCHESTRAL EXPERIENCE

Costa Rica Youth Symphony Orchestra | 2000–2003

Camerata de Cuerdas – OSJ | 1998–2003

Heredia Symphony Orchestra | 1998–2000 / 2009–2013

National Symphony Orchestra of Costa Rica | 2003–2004

Huntsville Youth Orchestra, AL, USA – Principal Cello | 2000

Metropolitan Youth Orchestra, AL, USA | 2000

Loyola Chamber String Orchestra – Principal Cello | 2003–2007

Loyola University Symphony Orchestra – Principal Cello | 2003–2007

Loyola Opera Orchestra | 2004–2007

LSU Symphony Orchestra – Principal Cello | 2007–2009

LSU Philharmonia | 2007–2009

LSU Opera Orchestra | 2007–2009

Louisiana Sinfonietta – Principal Cello | 2007–2009

Baton Rouge Symphony Orchestra | 2007–2009

Acadiana Symphony Orchestra | 2007–2009

Louisiana Philharmonic Orchestra | 2006, 2008

Costa Rica Philharmonic Orchestra | 2009–2013

University of Costa Rica Symphony Orchestra – Principal Cello | 2010–present

CHAMBER MUSIC

- Cellísmo Cello Quartet (2002)
- Loyola University Chamber Ensemble (2003–2006)
- Louisiana State University Chamber Ensemble (2007–2009)
- Contemporary String Ensemble (2008)
- Cuarteto Alma (2010–2019)
- CaféConcert Trio (2013–present)
- Editus String Ensemble (2009–present)
- Cuarteto Amazona (2022-present)

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

- Cello Instructor, Escuela Municipal de Artes Integradas de Santa Ana (EMAI) – 2001
- Cello Instructor, Academia de Música Bach – 2001
- Cello Instructor, National Institute of Music – 2009–2010
- Cello Instructor, Conservatorio Castella – 2009–2014
- Cello Professor, University of Costa Rica – Open Music Program – 2015–2020
- Private Cello Teacher 2018- Present

SELECTED RECORDINGS

Orchestral Recordings:

- Costa Rica Philharmonic – *Braulio en Concierto* (2010)
- Costa Rica Philharmonic – with El Consorcio (2010)
- Costa Rica Philharmonic – with La Sonora Santanera
- Heredia Symphony Orchestra – *Caminos* (2012)

Artists & Studio Work:

- Eddie Mora – *Premiérs* (La Ascensión de Remedios) (2009)
- Escats – *Manual Práctico del Amor y Desamor* (2010)
- *The Little Prince: An Adventure in Six Strings* (2013)
- La Escafandra – *1+1* (2013)
- Los Ajenos – *Peña Ajena* (2013)
- Alejandro Fernández – *Fracciones de Luz* (2014)
- Carlos “Tapado” Vargas (2014)

- Manuel Montero – *Solo* (2014)
- Debi Nova – “Volver a Comenzar” (2014)
- Akasha – *Revoluciones* (2015)
- Baleron – *Cortando el Viento* (2015)
- Tamela Hedstrom – *En Este Lado del Mundo* (2015)
- Alanis Morissette – “The Morning” (2014)
- Joaquín Yglesias – *Más Allá de mi Vida* (2016)
- BaRock 2022
- Joaquín Yglesias - Italia 2023
- Pablo Esquivel - Logo 2024
- BaRock Christmas 2025
- Sonia Bruno original song “Morano” 2025
- **Over 200 studio recordings** as soloist and orchestral cellist

FILM RECORDINGS

- *Cartas a Elena*, Mexico (2013)
- *Espejismo*, Costa Rica (2014)
- *Mujer Descalza*, Mexico – **Solo Cellist** (2015)

ADDITIONAL HIGHLIGHTS

- Guest cellist – Flamenco Festival (2002)
- Guest cellist – International Clarinet Festival with Marco Masini (2013)
- Featured in HBO series “**Ballers**”, Season 2 Episode 1 (Miami, 2015)
- Guest cellist – Al Bustan Festival, Lebanon (2016)
- Session cellist for national and international artists, including **Alanis Morissette**
- Winner of *Orchestra Excellence* international audition (2017)
- Participated in international productions with *World Grammy*–winning artists
- Active performer with Costa Rican artists, private cello teacher, and member of:
 - **Editus String Ensemble**
 - **BaRock** (cellist/bassist)
 - **Amazona Quartet**
 - **VioLed duo**
 - **Solo Artist**