

COLOMBIA: IN FOCUS

A WEEKLY UPDATE FROM THE EMBASSY OF COLOMBIA

June 6, 2012

NPR's "From the Top" to Feature Young Colombian Musicians

On Wednesday, May 30, Christopher O'Riley, host of National Public Radio's (NPR) "From the Top" – one of the most popular and prestigious classical music radio series in the United States – visited the Teatro Mayor Julio Mario Santodomingo in Bogotá, Colombia, to record the first-ever broadcast of the show outside of the United States.

Themed "**From the Top in Colombia with Host Christopher O'Riley**," the show features 149 young musicians from the Colombian Youth Philharmonic, the Allegro Ensemble Batuta, and extraordinary Colombian soloists.

From the Top, a non-profit organization with an educational mission, was a natural partner for highlighting Colombia and the work of the National Batuta Foundation, as it is interested in promoting music and music education as a pathway to social development.

The show will air in September 2012 on nearly 250 NPR stations across the United States and will be available for streaming on fromthetop.org.

To learn more, click [here](#).

National Batuta Foundation – Cultivating the Next Generation of Colombian Musicians

The National Batuta Foundation and the Bolivar Davivienda Foundation are two leading non-profit organizations with a mission to advance youth music and inspire a new generation of young musicians in Colombia.

In 1991, the National Batuta Foundation created the **National Batuta Youth Symphonic Foundation** to strengthen and increase the enjoyment, practice and teaching of music in the country. With sites in 284 orchestral centers in 102 cities across Colombia, today the Foundation affords more than 36,000 students the opportunity take part in 1,000 pre-orchestral groups and 26 symphonic orchestras.

The **Colombian Youth Philharmonic** – the flagship orchestra of the Colombian symphonic youth movement – was created in 2012 as a result of an alliance between the Bolivar Davivienda Foundation, the National Batuta Foundation and the Youth Orchestra of the Americas. The Colombian Youth Philharmonic provides world-class training to young musicians between the ages of 16 and 24 who audition to become members of the orchestra.

For more information, visit: <http://tinyurl.com/cyekjzq>

Get to know Colombia.
Learn more at www.colombiaemb.org.



"From the Top" host, Christopher O'Riley, recording with the Colombian Youth Philharmonic



The Colombian Youth Philharmonic recording in the Teatro Mayor Julio Mario Santodomingo in Bogotá, Colombia



The Colombian Youth Philharmonic recording the first-ever broadcast of "From the Top" outside of the U.S.



In this photo: Fernando Cortés, President Fundacion Bolivar Davivienda; Linda Gonzáles, Counselor for Public Affairs for the Embassy of the United States; Denisse Yanovich, Cultural and Education Affairs Counselor for the Embassy of Colombia; Christopher O'Riley; Jennifer Hurley-Wales; Juan Antonio Cuellar, President Fundacion Nacional Batuta; and James L. Russo, Cultural Attaché for the Embassy of the United States