

Patricia Zarate Perez Other Bios

Performance:

Patricia started playing the guitar and singing Chilean songs at age 10 in Santiago and Santa Cruz, Chile. She picked up the saxophone at age 13 and studied in Chile with renowned Chilean saxophone players. She moved to the US at age 20 and became the first female Chilean student to graduate from Berklee College of Music. Later, she pursued her master's degree in Jazz Studies at New York University with a full scholarship. Her saxophone teachers in the USA included Jerry Bergonzi, Jackie McLean, George Garzone, among others. Zarate has performed in North, Central, and South America with various bands in diverse settings. She has performed at Lincoln Center, Chicago's Jazz Showcase, Detroit Jazz Festival, Conservatory of Paris, Havana Jazz Festival, among many other sites, and in countries like Korea, Puerto Rico, Panama, Chile, USA, Gabon, Cameroon, Spain, among others. She regularly participates in her husband's (Panamanian pianist Danilo Perez) educational and diplomatic projects, and her life has been immensely influenced by the musical and non-musical lessons of saxophonist Wayne Shorter.

Music Therapy:

Zarate Perez graduated with the first generation of students from the music therapy department at Berklee College of Music in 1999, where she met her mentor Colin Lee. She worked as a music therapy intern at the Psychiatric Unit of the New Hampshire State Hospital, where she provided music therapy services to acute psychiatric patients. She later worked at the Boston Institute For Arts Therapies and Arts in Progress where she worked with children with behavioral difficulties, autism, and Down Syndrome. While pursuing her Master's Degree in Jazz Studies at New York University, Patricia met Clive Robbins and volunteered at the Nordoff & Robbins Center for Music Therapy. Zarate Perez has published in the Journal of Medicine and Pediatrics in Chile, and Panama. In 2013 she founded the Latin American Music Therapy Symposium in Panama City, Panama. In 2014 she founded the Latin American Music Therapy Network in Boston, USA, and in 2015 founded the Music Therapy Center of Panama. In 2017, she opened the diploma

program in Music Therapy with the University of the Americas (UDELAS) in Panama City, Panama. In 2018 she founded the Boston Center for Multicultural Music Therapy in Boston, MA. That same year she helped found RED MUSA, a Chilean network that expands music therapy services to the neurology department of the University of Chile. In 2020 Zarate founded the (virtual) Global Center for Music Therapy in Boston, MA.

Activism:

In 2005 Patricia started working as Director of Education for the Danilo Perez Foundation and the Panama Jazz Festival in Panama City, Panama. Her work with communities suffering from extreme poverty started to take shape when she toured those communities with husband Danilo Perez (former Goodwill Ambassador to UNICEF) in 2005. Patricia created over 20 education and scholarship programs as part of the Educational and Scholarship department of the Danilo Perez Foundation. She helped raise over one million dollars in scholarships and created a library of music with over 3,000 books. She later created the educational component of the Panama Jazz Festival and in 2009 became the Executive Director of the festival. Today, the Panama Jazz Festival is a center for auditions and scholarships for some of the world's most prominent music schools. The educational component of the festival brings over USD 80,000 annually in music education to youth from all over Panama and Latin America. The festival awards over 4,000 national scholarships annually and brings approximately 35,000 people to Panama City every year. Patricia has trained youth from all over the world to use music as a tool for social change. In Chile, her work is being expanded by the Chile Jazz Por La Paz festival. Every year, the Patricia Zarate Scholarship is announced and awarded to two Chilean students who want to use music to make a positive impact in the world.

Currently, Patricia serves as Board Member of the Danilo Perez Foundation, Executive Director of the Panama Jazz Festival, and Assistant Professor of Music and Social Activism at Berklee College of Music. She is a graduate student in the Ph.D. program of Global Inclusion and Social Development at the University of Massachusetts and homeschools her 3 children ages 9, 14 and 16 with her husband Panamanian pianist Danilo Perez.