

*Curriculum Vitae*

**NATALIA ROMERO ARBELÁEZ**

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**EDUCATION**

M.A. in Music Education, Choral Concentration. University of St. Thomas. St. Paul, MN (2023)

B.M. in Music Education. St. Olaf College. Northfield, MN (2015)

**TEACHING EXPERIENCE**

Saint Olaf College

Adjunct Instructor of Education

2023 - present

Instructor for Teaching Vocal Music in Secondary Schools, a course aimed to give senior music education majors and pre-service teachers tools to be successful in the middle and high school choral classroom.

The Blake School

Upper School Choral Director

2022 – present

Direct three curricular ensembles and two extra-curricular ensembles.

Co-teach a Musical Theater course collaboratively every other spring in partnership with the Upper School Theater Director. Music Direct the spring musical and work as vocal coach in rehearsals and serve as rehearsal pianist as needed.

Create relationships and collaborations with Lower School and Middle School colleagues and students.

Develop and lead tours in a national and international capacity with students in partnership with the Instrumental Director.

Harding High School

Choir Director & Piano Instructor

2017 – 2022

Directed three curricular ensembles, quarterly group piano classes and an International Baccalaureate (IB) Music Theory class.

Innovated classroom engaged with 1:1 technology engaging English Language Learners and building language equity within the classroom through iPads and Schoology.

Created and implemented curriculum for the St. Paul Public Schools District for use in performing ensemble classrooms and applied instrument settings.

Mentored pre-service teacher in interim and student teaching capacities yearly.

Initiated partnerships with community organizations including Augsburg University, VocalEssence, the Ordway Center for Performing Arts and Minneapolis Public Schools to bring joint performances to communities around St. Paul.

#### ComMUSICation

2016 – 2018

Crescendo Choir Director

Directed weekly choir rehearsals with youth in 2<sup>nd</sup> through 5<sup>th</sup> grade focusing on music literacy and developmentally appropriate pedagogy.

Implemented programs for youth development as part of a three person team that provided a high-quality and intensive music curriculum, representing the community of the St. Paul Promise Neighborhood.

#### Sibley Elementary

2016 –2017

Music Teacher & Choir Director

Designed and executed weekly lesson plans/assessments for K-5 music classes using Orff, Dalcroze and Kodaly methodology.

Instructed general education students as well as individuals with learning challenges and special needs within a mainstreamed, inclusive classroom.

Worked within a Professional Learning Community (PLC) to create and implement district wide music curriculum. Co-created an improvisation curriculum used by Northfield Public Schools.

Community of Peace

K-12 Music Teacher & Choir Director

Academy

2015 – 2016

Constructed and taught curriculum to K-8 General Music classes and high school choir to over 900 students a semester.

Collaborated with the theater department to produce a full-scale musical every year.

Grew choir program from 20 students to 40 students by the end of the year and facilitated multiple community music performances.

Private Voice Studio

Private Voice Instructor

2012 – 2018

Taught students in a weekly private lesson ranging from 30-60 minutes, preparing them for solo performances, auditions and individual growth.

Explored Bel Canto techniques, Classical Contemporary Music (CCM) techniques, and Musical Theater skills through a variety of repertoire encompassing art song, aria and Broadway repertoire.

**PROFESSIONAL ENGAGEMENTS AS CONDUCTOR OR FEATURED PERFORMER**

2024 GreenRoom, The Ordway Center for the Arts, Core Faculty (Music)

2024 Minnesota Orchestra, *“Here, There & Everywhere” Young People’s Concerts*, Host

2024 Blake Upper School A Cappella Choir & Chamber Orchestra, Minnesota Music Educators Association (MMEA) Mid-Winter Conference, Featured Ensemble

2023 PBS Learning Media - STAGE Season 3 Curriculum (Creator & Writer)

2023 GreenRoom, The Ordway Center for the Arts, Core Faculty (Music)

2023 PBS Learning Media - STAGE Season 2 Curriculum (Writer, Host)

2023 Minnesota Orchestra, *Winter Wonderland Young People’s Concerts*, Host

- 2022 GreenRoom, The Ordway Center for the Arts, Core Faculty (Music)
- 2022 TPT - This is Minnesota Orchestra, featured educator for El Mesias
- 2022 TPT - PBS, Host of STAGE (Televised)
- 2021 Hiawatha Valley League High School Honor Choir, Guest Conductor
- 2021 Twins Baseball, National Anthem Soloist for Home Opener
- 2021 Community Partnerships with CASA SOL, Teatro Del Pueblo, Indigenous Roots and Centro Tyrone Guzman (Heritage Choir - Border CrosSing)
- 2021 imPulse (MPLS) & Douachi Yang – “*Yuab Tsum Muaj Hnub Zoo*” (World Premiere), Guest Conductor
- 2020 MPR Class Notes & Border CrosSing Choir, Conductor
- 2020 VocalPoint & FLOBOTS, Guest Choir
- 2020 Minneapolis Public Schools & St. Paul Public Schools, Mid-Winter Collaboration Concert, Organizer & Conductor
- 2020 Augsburg University, Guest Conductor
- 2019 Minnesota Orchestra, Minnesota Chorale & Border CrosSing, Soloist
- 2019 Schubert Club and VocalEssence, “*Tienda*” (World Premiere), Soprano
- 2019 Augsburg University and Harding High School, Conductor
- 2018 VocalEssence and the Ordway Center for Performing Arts, Conductor
- 2017 Cretin-Derham Hall, Guest Choir & Conductor
- 2017 SPNN & Twin Cities Anti-Hate Directive My Refuge Is Humanity, Soloist

**EDUCATIONAL CONSULTING & CURRICULUM DEVELOPMENT**

PaviElle French

2023-2024

Border CrosSing

*Border CrosSing: Spanish Language Music*

Chorus America

This curriculum was developed for four elementary schools in the

2022 – 2023

Twin Cities Metro who were partnering with Border CrosSing for a series of residencies. The materials explore pieces found in Border CrosSing’s Graphite Publishing series and include historical

context, pronunciation and practice tracks appropriate for students in grades 3-6th.

PBS Learning Media  
2021 – 2023

*STAGE: A Cultural and Personal Identity Music Curriculum*  
“Get a front row seat in discovering what makes the Minnesota music scene so unique. Educator, musician, and host, Natalia Romero Arbeláez, takes in these world class performances at exciting Twin Cities venues and gets exclusive access to the creators behind the music.”

Content for this guide was created by Natalia to be used in middle and high school educational spaces during and after school. The Stage curriculum spans multiple content areas and can be adapted to fit student and educator's needs. The curriculum features eleven different units aligned to state and national arts standards.

<https://tpt.pbslearningmedia.org/collection/stage/>

## **CERTIFICATIONS**

2021 – 2026 K-12 Vocal & Classroom Minnesota State Licensure  
2018 International Baccalaureate Training - IB DP, MYP DP  
2016 Responsive Classroom Certification  
2016 Developmental Design Certification  
2015 Highly Qualified Teacher, Minnesota (Music)

## **GRANTS, AWARDS and HONORS**

2023 Regional Midwest Emmys (Nomination) - Longform Content: STAGE: American Roots Revue (Host)  
2021 St. Paul Retired Teacher Inc. Scholarship (\$3000)  
2019 Arts Learning Grant (Border CrosSing), Metropolitan Regional Arts Council (\$10,000)

- 2019 Teacher Grant, HiWay Federal Credit Union Foundation (\$1,500)  
2018 Dean's Scholarship, University of St. Thomas (\$12,000)  
2018 Diversity Scholarship, University of St. Thomas (\$800)

## **PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE**

### **Choral**

- 2019 – current Heritage Choir (Border CrossSing), Founder & Director  
2020 – 2022 St. Stephen's Catholic Church, Hispanic Ministry Choir Director  
2018 – current VocalEssence Ensemble Singers, Soprano  
2017 – current Border CrossSing, Soprano  
2016 – 2018 MPLS (imPulse), Soprano  
2015 – 2019 Treble II Lay Clerk, St. Paul's Episcopal Church

### **Selected Theater Experience**

- 2023 Twelfth Night (Public Works Production) (Music Director)  
2022 Coco's Barrio: Alicia en Wonderland (Music Director)  
2021 Coco's Barrio: La Casa del Chisme (Music Director)  
2020 PRIMERA VEZ QUE NO TENGO MIEDO (*World Premiere*) (Soloist)  
2018 Guthrie Theater: High School Musical Theater Camps (Vocal Director)  
2018 Peter and the Starcatcher (Music Director, Sound Design)  
2018 Coco's Latinidad: Cinco De Mayo (Music Director)  
2017 Paul Bunyan: A Strongman's Tale (*World Premiere*) (Director)  
2017 Rock and Roll Revival (Music Director)  
2016 A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum (Music Director)  
2016 Wizard of Oz (Music Director)  
2016 Camelot (Music Director)  
2015 Big Fish (Music Director)  
2015 In The Heights (Music Director)

## **SELECTED PRESENTATIONS**

- 2024 “*STAGE: A Secondary Music Curriculum*”, Minnesota Music Educators Association (MMEA) Midwinter Conference, Presenter
- 2023 “*The Collaborative Classroom: Strategies for Culturally Responsive Teaching*”, California State University Stanislaus, Intro to Music Education Course, Presenter
- 2022 “*STAGE: A Secondary Music Curriculum*”, Minnesota Society for Music Teacher Education (MNSMTE) Spring Meeting, Perpich Center, Presenter
- 2023 “*We Are Here to Thrive: Frameworks and Strategies for the Inclusive Ensemble*”, Minnesota Music Educators Association (MMEA) Midwinter Conference, Presenter
- 2022 “*The Collaborative Classroom: Student Voice & Choice*”, California State University Stanislaus, Intro to Music Education Course, Presenter
- 2022 “*We Are Here to Thrive: Frameworks and Strategies for the Inclusive Ensemble*”, American Choral Directors Association of Minnesota, Summer Dialogue, Presenter
- 2022 “*Hmong Music in the Choral Classroom*”, Minnesota Music Educators Association (MMEA) Midwinter Conference, Presenter
- 2022 “*MRAC Evolve: Language Edition*”, Metropolitan Regional Arts Council, Panelist
- 2022 “*Hmong Music in the Choral Classroom*”, Perpich Center for the Arts, Presenter
- 2021 “*Inclusion and Representation in the Online Classroom*”, St. Olaf College, Lecturer
- 2021 “*Women in Music Education*”, Gustavus College Music Colloquium Series, Panelist
- 2020 “*It’s Not Diversity, Equity, or Inclusion, It’s Reality*”, Minnesota Music Educators Association (MMEA) Midwinter Conference, Panelist
- 2019 “*Schoolology and the Virtual Classroom*”, MMEA Midwinter Conference, Presenter
- 2019 “*Safe, Seen and Welcomed: ‘Urban’ Music Education*”, St. Olaf College, Lecturer
- 2018 “*Honoring Our Students Cultures Through a Commission*”, MMEA Interval Journal

## **PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS and SERVICE**

- 2024 INTERVAL Journal, Minnesota Music Educators Association
- 2021 – 2023 Teacher Education Advisory Board Member, Augsburg University
- 2020 – 2022 Ordway Honors Concert Choir Chair, St. Paul Public Schools

2019 – 2023	Region 3-4AA Board Representative (MMEA)
2019 – 2022	6-12 Music Steering Committee, St. Paul Public Schools
2018 – 2021	Saint Paul Chamber Orchestra & Greater Twin Cities Youth Symphony, Board Member
2018 – 2021	Teacher Advisory Board Member, St. Olaf College
2017 – current	Founding Board Member & Heritage Choir Director, Border CrossSing
2015 – current	American Choral Directors Association, member
2020 – current	Chorus America, member
2015 – current	Minnesota Music Educators Association, member
2015 – current	National Association for Music Education, member

## **SKILLS**

Spanish (native speaker)

Fundraising and grant writing

Proficient in Piano, Voice, Ukulele

Software: Sibelius, Finale, Final Cut Pro X, Audacity, Logic

**References provided on request.**