

NICOLÁS KELLO

Director of Music • K–12 Music & Arts Education • Curriculum & Instructional Leadership

Los Angeles, CA • nicokello@gmail.com • www.NickKello.com • [Professional Portfolio](#)

PROFESSIONAL SUMMARY

Award-winning music educator and program builder with 25 years of experience across independent, charter, and nonprofit settings. Leads inclusive, inquiry-based curricula that integrate the arts with core academics for highly gifted and diverse learners. Director-level experience launching and scaling ensemble programs, coaching faculty, and producing large community performances and adjudicated festival trips.

SIGNATURE ACHIEVEMENTS & AWARDS

- Led Mirman School Advanced Combo Band to 1st place (2023) and 2nd place (2025) at the National Jazz Festival (PA).
- Recipient of Ginny Mancini Research Award for “Extraordinary Music Teacher in Los Angeles” (UCLA CAP, 2015).
- Phi Beta Kappa (Omicron Chapter, MA); Golden Key National Honors Society.

CERTIFICATIONS & TRAININGS

- Apple Certified Pro: Logic Pro X (2015); Pro Tools Certification Course (2021).
- Orff-Schulwerk Level I (2019); Kodály Level I (2017).
- Adaptive Schools 4-Day Training (UCLA Center X, 2014).
- Ear Training for Live Performance (Berklee Online, 2016);
- UCLA Extension: Record Production Process (2014).
- Critical Thinking Institute; Primary Sources Workshop (UCLA, 2013)

EDUCATION

- California Institute of the Arts — B.F.A., Multi-Focus Performance for Guitar; GPA 3.87 (2006).
- Boston College — B.A., English & Philosophy; Magna Cum Laude; GPA 3.74 (1999).
- E.M.C. Berklee College of Music I.N., Buenos Aires — Two years of B.F.A. studies; Guitar (2000–2001).

CORE STRENGTHS

• Inquiry-Based Pedagogy	• Arts Integration	• AP/IB & K-12 Standards Alignment	• Differentiation & Inclusion
• Program & Ensemble Leadership	• Faculty Coaching & PD	• Festival Logistics & Tours	• Community Performances

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Mirman School, Director of Music — *Los Angeles, CA* Aug 2017 – Present

- Teach general music (K–4; formerly K–6) using inclusive, inquiry-based curriculum integrating core content areas for highly gifted learners.
- Founded and direct the Upper School Combo Band program (grades 5–8): two ensembles including an Intermediate and Advanced Band; created a Combo Band alumni recording and mentorship program.
- Developed partnership with a Grammy-winning engineer at Sunset Sound to produce student recordings and create a school recording studio; coordinate Winter and Spring concerts, assemblies, and major school events.

- Co-plan and chaperone local and out-of-state overnight trips to adjudicated music festivals; achieved top national placements (2023, 2025).
- Collaborate with music faculty on repertoire, performance standards, and student growth goals.

UCLA Lab School, Music Demonstration Teacher — *Los Angeles, CA* Sept 2012 – 2017

- Designed and taught a K–6 curriculum that fostered critical thinking, SEL, and social-justice themes while integrating math, literacy, science, and social studies.
- Contributed to research and outreach; modeled lessons for visiting educators and supported dissemination of best practices.
- Worked with university researchers to develop environmental education initiatives.

Los Feliz Charter School for the Arts (CalCreative), Music Teacher & Artist-in-Residence Coordinator — *Los Angeles, CA* Sept 2010 – June 2012

- Developed standards-based K-5 music curriculum integrated with ELA, math, social studies, and science.
- Created and coordinated the Artist-in-Residence Program; secured LA County Department of Cultural Affairs funding and managed partnerships.

Plaza de la Raza School of Performing & Visual Arts, CAP Program Coordinator | Instructor — *Los Angeles, CA* Oct 2008 – Sept 2010 (Coordinator); Oct 2007 – 2008 (Instructor)

- Led CalArts Community Arts Partnership music program for inner-city Middle and High School students; designed semester curricula and managed instructors.
- Oversaw budgets, hiring, and final showcases; taught private guitar, music theory, songwriting, and rock ensemble.

Private Music Instructor (Los Angeles County) — *Los Angeles, CA* Mar 2004 – 2012

- Provided weekly guitar and music instruction to children and adults across levels; tailored lessons for individual goals and needs as well as performance outcomes.

California Institute Of The Arts (Los Angeles County), CAP Songwriting Teacher — *Los Angeles, CA* Mar 2003 – 2004

- Designed and taught a course on The Art of Songwriting for Middle and High School students in the Community Arts Partnership program to teach and encourage children to compose their own music.

Colegio Tarbut, IB Theory of Knowledge, English and Debate Teacher — *Buenos Aires, Argentina* Feb 2000 – May 2002

- Designed and taught International Baccalaureate Theory of Knowledge (grade 12) and a Debate course (grades 6-10).
- Taught English literature (grades 6–12)

PUBLICATIONS

- **Publication collaboration with Dr. Jeff Share:** Teaching unit featured in Chapter 6 of [“Teaching Climate Change to Adolescents” \(Routledge\)](#), 2017.
- **Featured in** [Journal Of Children And Media “Art As Experience, Rather Than Appreciation” \(Taylor & Francis\)](#) by Erin Reilly, 2011.

EDUCATIONAL CONSULTING & PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

- **Critical Media Conference of the Americas** (2021): “Critical Media Literacy in Action” presentation (trilingual global conference).
- **UCLA School of the Arts & Architecture** (2014–2021): Eight lectures to undergraduate students enrolled in VAPAE minor & Arts Education Teaching Sequence; coaching at UCLA Lab School for prospective educators.
- **Young Musicians Foundation** (2020): PD on adapting music education for online/remote instruction serving ~4,500 students pre-K to adult.
- **NAMLE Conferences** (2013, 2017): Panels/workshops on eco-media literacy and arts-integrated media education.
- **Loyola Marymount University** (2015–2016): Guest lectures & SEL workshops; coaching at UCLA Lab School for prospective educators.
- **UCLA Center X, With Different Eyes Conference** (2015): PD on using music as a tool for critical inquiry and student empowerment.
- **Age of Learning / ABCmouse.com** (2014): Consulting on music curriculum design and implementation.
- **LA Dept. of Cultural Affairs** (2012): Grant proposal reader and panelist.
- **USC Annenberg Innovation Lab** (2011): Think-tank on transmedia extensions for Caldecott Medal book “Flotsam”.

COMMITTEES & OUTREACH

- Mirman School: **Strategic Planning Committee** (2025–present); **Faculty Growth & Evaluation Committee** (2024–present); **Co-Chair, NAIS Accreditation Faculty & Pedagogy Subcommittee** (2025–present).
- UCLA Lab School: **Environmental Education initiative** (UCLA Center X, 2017); **Inquiry Pedagogy Committee** (2013–2017); **Together Through Music & Dance Coordinator** (2012–2017); **Teacher Leadership Council** (2013–2016); **Safe School Committee** (2012–2013)
- Major event performances prepared and conducted (2016–2017): **UNESCO 70th Anniversary** (Skirball Cultural Center), **UCLA Global Migration Conference**; **UCLA Lab School 135th Anniversary**.

LANGUAGES & ADDITIONAL

- Languages: English, Spanish, Portuguese (fluent). Citizenship: USA, Spain (EU), Argentina.
- Performance & Composition: 25+ years as guitarist/singer across diverse genres; extensive live performance and studio experience.