

## The Miami Music Project Journey Begins

**January 2009** - The Miami Music Project is Miami's new, innovative and dynamic ensemble of gifted musicians dedicated to the dual mission of community involvement through collaborative Arts Festivals, and introducing youth to classical music.

Miami Music Project is led by Maestro James Judd, Artistic Director and Richard Harris, Executive Director. This dynamic partnership evolved through their individual discussion of projects with Alberto Ibargüen, President of the Knight Foundation. Mr. Ibargüen recognized the complimentary and synergistic nature of their individual project goals. He suggested they hold creative discussions, which resulted in Maestro Judd and Richard Harris determining to jointly develop a new ensemble model of teaching artists – Miami Music Project.

Natural partnerships have developed between Miami Music Project, the Arsht Center for the Performing Arts and the Miami Dade Public Schools based on a successful feasibility study, strong business plan, innovative project goals and the strong leadership team of Maestro James Judd, Artistic Director, and Richard Harris, Executive Director.

In December 2008, MMP was awarded a \$1,000,000.00 Challenge Grant by the Knight Foundation and in January 2009 the Arsht Center offered free office space to MMP where the company offices are currently located. Auditions for MMP are scheduled in Miami in May 2009. Ten exceptional musicians will be engaged based on their high level of performance and their commitment to creative work in schools and the community.

"We will bring to Miami musicians who are not only extremely gifted as instrumentalists, but who are also deeply committed to becoming ambassadors for the art form."

The Miami Music Project Ensemble will then begin performing in selected schools of Miami-Dade, is planning coordinated performances with the Arsht Center, and their season will culminate with a collaborative arts festival in May 2010, led by Artistic Director James Judd.