

## Miami Music Project Auditions Heralded as a Success

**June 1<sup>st</sup>** – The Miami Music Project, a new dynamic educational ensemble last week held instrumental auditions for their inaugural year.

Led by **Artistic Director, James Judd**, the Miami Music Project had advertised for ‘young, engaging performer/teachers’ whose primary goal will be to lead an ambitious classical music education project in partnership with Miami-Dade Public Schools.

After initially receiving over 160 applicants, **Jame Judd** said:

*“The response was amazing - we found musicians who are committed to the future of the art form and have a deep desire to communicate their love of music to the next generation.”*

**Judd** himself has a long history of working with educational projects for young people. He co-founded the European Community Youth Orchestra along-side Claudio Abbado, where he still serves as Honorary Artistic Director to the internationally renowned ensemble.

*“There was not one candidate from whom we didn’t learn something.” – Judd continued, “We also took the unorthodox approach of using middle-school children on the committee for our auditions.”*

The idea to use school children as judges is both unique and innovative but Judd feels that the idea was a complete success.

*“Having children there gave us an insight into how these kids would react to the professional musicians and we also saw how some of the instrumentalists reacted to the kids!”*

With musicians selected, the Miami Music Project is in full swing planning for next seasons work.

The Miami Music Project was awarded a one million dollar grant in January 2009 by the John S. & James L. Knight Foundation as part of the Knight Arts Challenge Program. The project has also received a major 10 year commitment from Audre and Donald Carlin, in addition to grants from the Firestone Family Foundation and other private donors. The Miami Music Project operates as a partner with the Adrienne Arsht Center for the Performing Arts of Miami-Dade County where its offices are currently located.