



Afa Dworkin

**President and Artistic Director
Sphinx Organization**

One of Musical America's Top 30 Influencers, recipient of the Kennedy Center Human Spirit Award and Detroit Crain's 40 Under 40, Ms. Dworkin is President and Artistic Director of the Sphinx Organization. She has developed a comprehensive national roster of musicians of color, launched partnerships with more than 100 global partners and led the organization's most successful fundraising campaign.

Ms. Dworkin is a frequent speaker, including the International Arts & Ideas Festival, Chamber Music America, National Association for Schools of Music, League of American Orchestras, ICSOM, Americans for the Arts, Association of Canadian Orchestras, and others. She has served as an adjudicator for the Michigan Council for Arts and Cultural Affairs, Association of Performing Arts Presenters, 3Arts Awards, the National Endowment for the Arts, Charlotte Arts and Sciences Council, Independent Sector's American Express NGen awards, Florida, Indiana and Oklahoma State Arts Council grants and Atlanta Symphony's Talent Development Program. As a writer, she has contributed to Strings Magazine, Polyphonic.org, and the Michigan String Teachers Association magazine.

Ms. Dworkin serves as faculty for Roosevelt University's Master's Program in Performing Arts Administration. She is a Trustee for the Detroit Symphony Orchestra and CultureSource. A pupil of the former Soviet conservatory training, Ms. Dworkin graduated with High Honors from the University of Michigan with Bachelor's and Master's Degrees in Violin Performance. She may be heard as an electric violinist on a CD entitled "Bar-Talk".

She previously served as a tri-lingual interpreter and Executive Assistant to the President at ARCO, The International Oil and Gas Company in Baku, Azerbaijan.



Raniel Joubert

**Violinist
Sphinx Organization**

Cuban-born violinist Raniel Joubert began his musical studies at the age of seven. While studying at the Manuel Saumell Conservatory in La Habana, Cuba, with Maria de los Angeles Verdecia, he was selected to join world-renowned Cuban jazz pianist Ernán López-Nussa in a tour to Spain. With him, he performed not only Cuban music, but also jazz in the UNICEF-sponsored concerts to support Cuban schools. In addition, Joubert was a founding member of the Children's Symphony Orchestra of Cuba, which served to unify the musical community in

the country.

In 2002, he was selected to join the Advance group for strings development, a program created for young outstanding violinists. Raniel was also invited to play in the National Symphony Orchestra of Cuba, conducted by Maestros Ivan del Prado and Enrique Pérez Mesa. The following year, he joined the Latin American Youth Symphony Orchestra, conducted by Claudio Abbado and having Gustavo Dudamel as assistant conductor, in which he performed both at the Amadeo Roldan (Havana, Cuba) and the Teresa Carreño Theatre (Caracas, Venezuela).

In 2004, Joubert entered the High Institute of Arts, year when he also won a position as a member of the Opera and Ballet Orchestras of Havana. In addition to being awarded a Golden Title from this institution, Joubert has excelled in competitions around Havana. He earned second prize at the Union de Escritores y Artistas de Cuba (Artists and writers Union) violin competition in 2006 and was awarded the Prize for the Best Interpretation of Cuban Music that same year. In addition to his successes as a competitor, Joubert has participated in prestigious music festivals and master classes. He has had the opportunity to play for musicians such as Gidon Kremer, Erick Grossman, Ilmar López Gavilán, Paul Kantor, and the Borromeo String Quartet. Joubert has participated in several music festivals, including the International Chamber Music Festival of Merida (Venezuela), the Premier Orchestral Institute (Mississippi), and Aspen Music Festival (Colorado).

Raniel strives to champion new music along with older masterpieces as a soloist and chamber musician. He helped found the Chamber Orchestra of Havana, with which he soloed Lalo's *Symphonie Española* and Mozart Violin Concerto No. 4. His chamber music recital appearances have taken him to Spain, Venezuela, Cuba, and the United States. Joubert, trained by Dr. Shannon Thomas at the University of Southern Mississippi, is one of the four finalists of the 15th Annual Sphinx Competition. Prize that allowed him to tour as a member of Sphinx Virtuosi, a chamber ensemble created to broadcast the purpose of the

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competition, and play in important halls such as New World Center (Miami), University of Ohio, University of Denver, Kennedy Center (Washington), Carnegie Hall (New York), among others. Rainel Joubert is one of four Community Embedded Musicians (CEM) with the Houston Symphony. This position allows him to be involved in Houston-areas, schools, hospitals, and neighborhoods both as a teaching artist and performer, while also playing on stage with the Houston Symphony Orchestra. Mr. Joubert plays on a Guarneri Del Gesu model crafted by Arie Werbrouck and sponsored by the MPower Grant through the Sphinx Organization.