

2019

International Student Success Stories

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Recommended Citation

(2019). International Student Success Stories. *TEMPO*, 16 (1). Retrieved from <https://dsc.duq.edu/tempo/vol16/iss1/14>

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Student Success Stories Abroad

Student Wins International Festival Competition

Jhoser Salazar Ramirez (A.D. Performance, 2019), recently took first place at the International Clarinet Competition of the Festival Internacional de Clarinete de Monterrey held in Monterrey, Mexico.

After receiving an undergraduate and master's degree in his home country of Colombia and attending the Conservatoire Jean-Philippe Rameau in Paris, Ramirez enrolled at Duquesne for a very specific reason: "I wanted to focus all of my energies on performance," stated Ramirez.

Ramirez studied under the tutelage of Duquesne's Ron Samuels, who is a clarinetist in the Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra. Ramirez had met Samuels in Columbia five years prior and was the big draw for him coming to Duquesne.

"He's phenomenal. I thought to myself, if I go abroad, that's the guy I want to study with," said Ramirez. "And that didn't change. I always wanted to come here (to Duquesne). He means a lot for me now and I know he will in the future."

The competition was adjudicated by a prestigious panel of musicians including Pascual Martinez Fortes of the

New York Philharmonic, Marie-B Barriere of the Orchestra Philharmonique de Monte Carlo, and Giovanni Punzi of the Copenhagen Philharmonic.

Ramirez was awarded a professional Buffet Crampon Tradition clarinet, along with some accessories.

In addition to his goal of playing the clarinet in an orchestra, Jhoser wants to teach music back in Colombia. "I want to help people like me five years ago who are looking to improve."

Since graduation from Duquesne, Jhoser will be pursuing a D.M.A., a Doctor of Musical Arts, at the University of Houston. ■



Cellist Wraps Up Six Weeks in London at City Music Foundation Summer Program

Cellist Abner Jairo Ortiz Garcia (M.M. Performance, 2019), spent six weeks of recitals and workshops with the City Music Foundation (CMF) Summer Program in London.

Garcia was selected as the CMF Mexican International Scholar in partnership with Anglo Arts, a member of the Anglo Mexican Foundation.

While in London, Garcia gave public recitals at the Day of Music at St. Bart's Hospital; the Victoria and Albert Museum, in connection with the

Frida Kahlo exhibition there; the CMF's Summer Residency at The Wallace Collection; and All Saints Tooting Church.

Garcia also participated in professional development workshops, met with artistic and business mentors, received lessons from renowned cellist Mats Lidström, and attended various concerts featuring distinguished artists. And if his schedule wasn't full enough, he had the opportunity to participate in a side-by-side workshop with Les Siècles, a leading period-instrument ensemble.

Funding from the Duquesne Musical Associates program helped to support Garcia's travel expenses in London. ■