

# DAVID PERRICO POP STRINGS ORCHESTRA — ROSTER 2021 —

## **David Perrico – TRUMPET, COMPOSER, ARRANGER, PRODUCER, CONDUCTOR**

BM - Youngstown State University

MM - UNLV

DPG Enterprises, Inc

REVIEW JOURNAL “BEST OF LAS VEGAS” RECIPIENT

Native of Youngstown, Ohio and earned a master’s degree in Composition/Jazz/Film Score from UNLV (2004-2006) and a B.M. Classical/Jazz from Youngstown State Univ. (1988-1993). In 1994 Perrico toured 46 week per year schedule with **The Tommy Dorsey Orchestra** as Soloist and Road Manager (1994-97 and 1999-2002) and also with Crystal Cruise Line completing two world cruises (1997-1999).

**Adjunct Faculty Professor at UNLV Jazz Studies** (2006-2011)

**Music Director / Music Arranging Show Credits:** Paul Shaffer show at Caesars, The Village People, Pin Up Show at Stratosphere, The Rat Pack Is Back, Cirque Du Soleil - Elvis, Toronto Pops Symphony, The Scinta’s, Princess Cruise Line, Sinatra Live, Dean Martin Lives Show, Vintage Vegas, Marine Corps Toys For Tots, Divas 3, Smith Center Shows: Sting Tribute, Godfather Tribute, Disney Tribute, Latin Tribute, Black History Tribute, Jazz Tribute.

**Composition Awards:** 2 National Awards for original orchestral compositions “Archetype Dance” and “Fanfare of Light”

**Film Score credits:** Pop Star Puppy, The Three E’s

**Performance credits:**

Gladys Knight, Bad Bunny, *Cirque du Soleil-Elvis*, Barry Manilow, Toni Braxton, Donny & Marie, Natalie Cole, Frankie Valli, Michael Feinstein, Frankie Avalon, Bobby Rydell, The Temptations, Tommy Tune, The 4 Tops, The Family Guy, Ben Vereen, Phantom Of The Opera, Drew Carey, Rich Little, Wayne Newton, B.B. King, The Rat Pack is Back, Little Anthony, The Dells, Lena Prima, Susan Anton, NBC/Last Comic Standing, Chuck Mangione, 2000 U.S. Presidential Inaugural Ball, Petula Clark, Youngstown Symphony, Cleveland Jazz Orchestra, and the Las Vegas Philharmonic. Sony Studios - Adele

**LATIN GRAMMY’S 2019 - Bad Bunny - with Pop Strings Orchestra**

**Pop Strings Orchestra & Pop Evolution Las Vegas Residencies:** Caesars Palace, Red Rock Hotel, Palms, Westgate, Stratosphere, MGM, The Smith Center

**Endorsements:** Phaeton Trumpets, Legends Brass

## **Amarilys “Lily” Arce – LEAD VOCALIST**

Originally from San Antonio, TX

**Performance Credits:**

Lead Vocalist: Cirque du Soleil show “O” at the Bellagio, Fantasy at the Luxor Hotel, Sin City Heat, Cabaret Show Sin City Kitties, Show in the Sky at the Rio Hotel, Raiding the Rock Vault at the Hard Rock Hotel. As an opening act, Lily has shared the stage with many artists, including M.C. Hammer, New Kids on the Block, Wynonna Judd, Gloria Estefan and the legendary Tito Puente. Lily toured and recorded with five-time Grammy Award winners, La Mafia.

Currently Lily is a featured vocalist with David Perrico - Pop Strings Orchestra and background vocalist for John Payne’s (Asia) Rock Pack and Lou Gramm (Foreigner).

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**Serena Henry – VOCALIST**

Serena hails from Jersey City, New Jersey and went to a performing arts high school in Las Vegas, NV.

Serena is a multi-talented entertainer who began her career at the age of 8 years old.

***Performance Credits:***

For 13 years, Serena performed and traveled the world with Smokey Robinson, Gladys Knight for 5 years as a special guest vocalist as well as Donny and Marie Osmond. In the summer of 2003, Serena appeared weekly on the NBC television show “FAME,” with Debbie Allen. Of 24 contestants, Serena ended as one of the top four finalists.

**Noybel Gorgoy – VOCALIST**

Born and raised in Pinar Del Río, Cuba and now living in the United States of America, Noybel is a gifted multitalented Music Artist. Her passion for music led her into the School of Arts in Cuba as a classical pianist at the age of seven and later graduated from the National School of Music in Habana in Theory of music.

***Performance Credits:***

Noybel toured internationally as a lead vocalist with several famous production shows like Lady Salsa and Cuban bands like Azúcar Negra, performing in prestigious theaters and music festivals around Europe. In 2004, Noybel arrived in the United States of America and became a cast member of the production “Havana Night Show”. A Cuban phenomenon presented to Las Vegas Siegfried and Roy, delivering performances at the Seminole Hard Rock Arena in Miami and at the Stardust Hotel & Casino in Las Vegas, a production show residency. She has been featured alongside Paul Shaffer at the iconic Caesar Palace, The Hot Club, Martin Never, Lani Misalucha, Ozomatli, and at the production show Between the Lines with Grammy Nominee Clint Holmes.

**Ken “Fletch” Walcott – VOCALIST**

A Native of Boston Massachusetts

***Performance Credits:***

American Idol 2013, David Perrico Pop40 & Pop Strings Orchestra. Residencies at Paris Hotel, Westgate, NYNY Hotel, MGM Park, Caesars Palace, The Smith Center.

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## **Jose “Pepe” Jimenez – DRUMS**

Pepe has played drums professionally since the age of 16 and is known for his versatility in different musical styles. His musical journey has taken him to the most prestigious stages around the world from Carnegie Hall to the Montreux jazz festival. He is a product of the Escuela Libre De Musica (Puerto Rico Performing Arts School), Musicians Institute of Technology and Puerto Rico Conservatory of Music.

### **Performance Credits (Latin America):**

Luis Fonsi, Mark Anthony, John Lucien, Giovanni Hidalgo, Jerry Gonzales, Olga Tañon, Elvis Crespo, Luis Perico Ortiz, Gilberto Santa Rosa, Jerry Rivera, and The Puerto Rico Symphony Orchestra to name a few.

### **Performance Credits (United States):**

Santana, Paul Shaffer, Mamma Mia, Baz, The Sheena Easton and Brian McKnight TV Show, Cirque du Soleil’s Zumanity and Criss Angel Believe, Greg Howe, Jason Robert Brown, Alan Menken, Disney’s The Lion King, Latin Grammy Awards, Santa Fe and the Fat City Horns and the Nascar Awards Ceremony Live.

**Recording Credits:** Santana, Greg Howe, Ricardo Arjona, Michael Cavanaugh, Olga Tañon, Santa Fe and the Fat City Horns, Armando Manzanero, Elvis Crespo, and Ilan Chester among others. He is currently performing with Pop Strings and the Pop Evolution Orchestra. Additionally, he is also performing with his solo project, The Groove Culture Band, which is dedicated to promoting Afro-Puerto Rican folklore with contemporary music. In addition to performing, Pepe is currently a professor at the University of Las Vegas, for the Division of Jazz and Commercial Music.

### **Guest Artist and Clinician Credits:**

Festival Internacional de Percusion - San Juan Puerto Rico, Brandon Jazz Festival Brandon University - Manitoba Canada, Drum Workshop & LP Latin American tour (Mexico, Paraguay, Uruguay, Argentina, Costa Rica, Honduras, Guatemala), The Las Vegas Drum Camp, The College of Southern Nevada, Percussive Arts Society - China Chapter and The Salt Lake City Jazz Festival.

**Endorsements:** DW Drums, Remo, Vic Firth and Sabian.

## **Keith Nelson – BASS**

Pontiac, Michigan

BA UNLV (1985)

### **Performance Credits:**

David Foster, Adam Levine, Andrea Bocelli, Andy Grammar, Ariana Grande, Baby Face, Bill Ross, Charice, Ceelo Green, Chaka Kahn -LV Show “Signed Sealed Delivered,” Charlie Puth, Chris Boti, David Cassidy, David Foster, Diana Ross, Frank Wildhorn, Gladys Knight, Jacki Evancho, Jason Derulo, Josh Groban, Kenny G, Kenny Loggins, Little Anthony and the Imperials, Mary J. Blige, Melissa Manchester, Michael Buble, Nell Carter TT, Nayo, Paul Anka, PeBo Bryson, Peter Cetera, Phillip Bailey, Reba McEntire, Ricky Martin, Rod Stewart, Sarah MacLachlan, Seal, Shania Twain, Sheena Easton, Sting, Tori Kelly, Usher, Wayne Newton

### **National Tours:**

Donna Summer 1983-1989, Nell Carter 1984-1989, Dino 1989-1991, Diana Ross 1991- 1995, David Cassidy 2002, Shania Twain 2013-2015, David Foster 2011 – present

### **Recording Credits:**

Donna Summer, Gladys Knight, Dino, Little Anthony and The Imperials, Natalie Cole, Peaches and Herb, Shania Twain, Will Downing

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## **Steven Lee – GUITAR**

Originally from Portsmouth, Virginia.

### ***Performance Credits:***

Donny & Marie lead guitarist, Broadway, The UK, British Rock group Asia. Residency at Bellagio with Steven Lee Group. Shared the Stage with Fattburger, Kansas, Peter White, and The Rippingtons.

***Recording Session Artist*** for Motown & United Artists

## **Otto Ehling – PIANO/KEYBOARDS**

Otto Ehling is an Afro-Brazilian American born in Los Angeles. He began studying classical piano at two years old. During his youth he won numerous awards, including first place in the prestigious NAACP nationals-classical division. He received his BM bachelors and MM masters in both Classical and Jazz on a full-ride scholarship at UNLV. Otto is currently pursuing his doctorate in classical music. In addition to his performing, he produces, composes, and arranges music for various artists.

### ***Performance Credits:***

David Perrico Pop Strings Orchestra, Human Nature, Cirque du Soleil's 'O', Long Beach Symphony, featured soloist - Rachmaninoff's 2<sup>nd</sup> Concerto, 2019 Latin Grammy's Bad Bunny, Ashton Kutcher and Demi Moore, Hans Zimmer.

## **Rocco Barbato – SAXOPHONE**

Rocco is a 20-year veteran of Las Vegas. A Native of Syracuse, New York and made his way to Las Vegas as a Marquee entertainer with Station Casinos. A four-year engagement at the prestigious Bellagio earned him "Best Jazz Group" and "Performer of the Year", Las Vegas Review Journal / Las Vegas Weekly. He has national recognition with the new Album release "The Spell", Sirius XM Water Colors.

### ***Performance Credits:***

Gordie Brown, The Michael Cavanaugh, Clint Holmes, Donny and Marie, Grover Washington Jr, Med Flory (Super Sax), Rob McConnel and The Boss Brass, The Jackson 5, The Eagles.

## **Adrianna Thurber – VIOLIN**

Born in Las Vegas, Nevada, Adrianna has spent most of her life playing the violin. She studied classical music, but also learned the art of jazz improvisation from her father, Michael Thurber, a jazz guitarist. Immediately after graduating from the Grammy Award winning Las Vegas Academy of Performing and Visual Arts, she began working as a full-time professional musician. In addition to being a driving force behind Pop Strings, she is also ***currently a member of Sir Rod Stewart's band***, traveling all over the world with him.

***Performance Credits:*** Pitbull, Andrea Bocelli, Celine Dion, Shakira, Stevie Wonder, Nick Jonas, Steven Tyler, Enrique Iglesias, Earth Wind and Fire, Cyndi Lauper, Gloria Estefan, Luis Fonsi, Richard Marx, Toni Braxton, Ronnie Dunn, Miley Cyrus, and many more!

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## **Chandra Meibalane – VIOLIN**

Born and raised in Southern Indiana, Chandra began studying the violin at the age of 3. She earned dual degrees in Violin Performance and Chemistry from Butler University. Chandra has performed across the United States, and has performed for sold out venues, such as Bankers Life Fieldhouse for the Indiana Pacers, Historic Hinkle Fieldhouse, T- Mobile Arena, MGM Grand Garden Arena, the Colosseum at Caesars Palace and many more.

### ***Performance Credits:***

Andrea Bocelli, Tony Bennett, Herbie Hancock, Steven Tyler, Michael Bublé, Halsey, Maluma, Darius Rucker, Disturbed, Richard Marx, Cheap Trick, and Ricky Martin. Currently, Chandra resides in Las Vegas where she performs with Shania Twain, Pop Strings Orchestra, and Bella Electric Strings.

## **Christina Rose – VIOLIN**

Christina Rose has been residing in Las Vegas for twenty years. Ms. Rose received her Bachelor of Music Performance degree in Violin from the University of Nevada Las Vegas, where she served as concertmaster of the UNLV Symphony Orchestra and performed as a member of the Liberace Scholars Quartet and teaches privately in the Las Vegas area.

### ***Performance Credits:***

Richard Marx, Clint Holmes, The Las Vegas Tenors, Lil Anthony and the Imperials, Yellow Brick Road for the Symphonic Rock Show, and Las Vegas' own artist, Frankie Moreno, to Alejandro Fernandez, Marco Antonio Solis and Shakira for the Latin Grammys, and Miley Cyrus for the Country Music Awards. Ms. Rose has collaborated with Opera Las Vegas for productions such as Puccini's work, Tosca and Mozart's Don Giovanni.

## **Crystal Yuan – VIOLA**

Born and raised in Las Vegas, Crystal started playing violin at the age of 5 and went on to graduate from UNLV. She has been with Pop Strings as the string leader since its launch and loves that she gets to make music with such talented friends.

***Performance Credits:*** The Eagles, Stevie Wonder, Andrea Bocelli, Barbra Streisand, Mariah Carey and Celine Dion, Latin Grammy's and more contemporary artists include Maluma, John Legend, Taylor Swift and Halsey.

## **Monique Olivas – VIOLIN**

Violinist Monique Olivas is a native of Las Vegas and has been performing professionally since her studies in music at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas and University of Cincinnati Conservatory. She regularly performs on the Las Vegas Strip and has performed around the world with various artist.

### ***Performance Credits:***

Andrea Bocelli, Smokey Robinson, Toni Braxton, Beyoncé, Rod Stewart, Deep Purple and most recently Aerosmith.

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## **Sarah Chaffee – CELLO**

Sarah “Cellobat” Chaffee is an in-demand performer, recording artist, and string arranger based in Las Vegas. She also plays in David Perrico's Pop Strings Orchestra, a 14-piece band with a longtime residency at Caesars Palace: as a main feature of the show, she performs standing-cello rock and metal improv solos unlike anything the audience has seen before. Sarah’s other passion is string arranging, and she currently has over 300 arrangements available for purchase on Sheet Music Plus under her own label, Cellobat Charts.

### ***Performance Credits:***

Aerosmith "Deuces Are Wild" residency, Premiere Wedding & Event Music, Bella Electric Strings, the Whisky Fiddlers, Las Vegas Symphony Orchestra, Disturbed, Mötley Crüe, Celine Dion, Halsey, Ricky Martin, Lady Antebellum, and Kygo.

## **Zuzana Engererova – CELLO**

Zuzana was born in Slovakia and completed her studies and received her degree at J.L. Bella Conservatory in Banska Bystrica Slovakia in Cello Performance. In 2004, Zuzana moved to Boston, MA and began performing with The MIT Philharmonic Orchestra under the direction of George Ogata. She has performed with MITSPO for 10 years.

Zuzana lives in Las Vegas, NV where she performs with David Perrico Pop Strings

Orchestra, Bella electric strings and Femmes of Rock. She is also touring with cinematic rock band STARSET and is the owner and founder of Las Vegas Music Oasis.

***Featured soloist*** in 2 Lifetime Movies “A Fall from Grace” released in 2012, “Shattered Silence” released in 2012, and the documentary film "Aside From That" released in 2015.

***Performance Credits:*** Isley Brothers, Richard Marx, Travis Green (Stella Awards 2018), Cheap Trick, Bad Bunny, Wayne Newton, Gloria Gaynor, Starset.

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***From left to right:***

Jose “Pepe” Jimenez, Sarah Chaffee, Keith Nelson, Christina Rose, Crystal Yuan, Steven Lee, Ken “Fletch” Walcott, David Perrico, Amarilys “Lily” Arce, Rocco Barbato, Chandra Meibalane, Zuzana Engererova, Otto Ehling, Adrianna Thurber, Monique Olivas