



MOLA honors curator Gary Galván with 2026 Eroica Award

MOLA: An Association of Music Performance Librarians recognizes Galván for advancing access to orchestral music and championing overlooked works.

SYDNEY | June 21, 2026 — MOLA: An Association of Music Performance Librarians presents curator and scholar Gary Galván with the 2026 Eroica Award for Outstanding Service to Music at the organization’s 44th annual conference in Sydney, Australia.

The award recognizes Galván’s decades of scholarship, editorial leadership and advocacy for orchestral music through his work with the Edwin A. Fleisher Collection of Orchestral Music at the Free Library of Philadelphia. Widely respected among performance librarians, conductors and scholars, Galván has helped expand access to neglected repertoire while supporting orchestras and music institutions around the world.

“Few people have done more to reconnect overlooked music with modern audiences than Gary Galván,” said Inger Marie Garcia de Presno, president of MOLA and orchestra librarian for the Berliner Philharmoniker. “His work at the Fleisher Collection has strengthened access to rare and underrepresented works while supporting the practical needs of librarians, conductors and performers worldwide. MOLA is proud to recognize and celebrate his extraordinary contributions with the 2026 Eroica Award for Outstanding Service to Music.”

MOLA is the premier professional association for music performance librarians who acquire, prepare, catalogue and maintain music for their institutions. The international nonprofit has more than 550 members representing 362 organizations worldwide, including 263 orchestras, 43 opera and ballet companies, 43 music academies, as well as 8 professional bands and ensembles.

As curator of music special collections for the Free Library of Philadelphia, Galván oversees the Fleisher Collection, the world’s largest collection of circulating orchestral performance materials. His work has focused on returning overlooked compositions to active performance. Galván and his team have produced critical editions and provided access to rare and underrepresented repertoire, including works by Latin American composers, women composers and composers of African descent.

He said receiving the award from fellow music performance librarians carries special significance because of the shared commitment required to bring music from archives to the concert stage.

“The MOLA Eroica Award for Outstanding Service to Music is deeply meaningful to me and I am profoundly honored, specifically because it comes from orchestral librarians who know the hard work that goes into

preparing music for the stage,” Galván said. “So much of our work at the Edwin A. Fleisher Collection of Orchestral Music is driven by partnerships with performance librarians and the orchestras they serve. I’m grateful to know we’ve made some of your jobs a little easier.”

A highly rewarding aspect of his work, he said, is to see rediscovered repertoire return to live performance.

“One of the great joys of this work is watching the ripples of what we do impact programming around the world,” Galván said. “When an orchestra librarian comes to us to resurrect a work, find a ‘lost’ work, or compliment one of our critical editions for clarity and practicality, I’m reminded that what we do is not simply archival or scholarly — it’s living work. All this music was written to be played.”

Galván praised MOLA for supporting the often-unseen work of performance librarians and fostering collaboration across the global music community. Anyone who has worked with music librarians, he said, knows how deeply knowledgeable, resourceful and solutions-oriented the community is.

“MOLA represents the very best of that spirit,” Galván said. “It connects the people who make performances possible and fosters a culture of extraordinary expertise, generosity, and cooperation among professionals whose work is often invisible to audiences, but without whom the music would never reach the stage.”

Elena Lence Talley, past president of MOLA and principal librarian of the Kansas City Symphony, nominated Galván for the award. She has seen firsthand how his efforts have made a direct impact on librarians and orchestras over many years.

“Gary understands both the scholarly and the practical sides of our work,” Talley said. “When a performance librarian contacts the Fleisher Collection, it feels like you’re gaining a partner to help make the performance happen.”

At the Fleisher Collection, Galván said “get the page to the stage” is a common motto they use to describe their mission.

“Through critical editions, preservation of historic materials, and reprints of forgotten works, we’re working to bring overlooked repertoire and under-represented composers to audiences,” he said. “That work only succeeds because of communities like MOLA, where there is such a strong collective commitment to making music accessible, performable, and heard. I’m deeply grateful to the Free Library of Philadelphia, to our team at the Fleisher Collection, and to the MOLA community who continue to believe that music deserves not just to survive, but to be heard.”

Galván is the fifth recipient of the Eroica Award for Outstanding Service to Music. Past recipients include editor Christian Rudolf Riedel (2025), conductor James Conlon (2024), conductor JoAnn Falletta (2023), and violinist Jennifer Koh (2022).

The award honors individuals who inspire MOLA members through advocacy, artistic excellence, or leadership. Recipients may include performers, scholars, editors, or anyone who exemplifies inclusion, mentorship, scholarship, or innovation in any facet of the music world.

Learn more about MOLA at mola-inc.org. Visit freelibrary.org to learn more about the Free Library of Philadelphia and the [Edwin A. Fleisher Collection of Orchestral Music](#). For photography, interviews or media inquiries, contact admin@mola-inc.org.

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About MOLA: An Association of Music Performance Librarians

Founded in 1983 as the Major Orchestra Librarians' Association, MOLA's mission is to facilitate communication between professional performance librarians, educate and assist them in providing service to their organizations, provide support and resources to the performing arts, and work with publishers to achieve the highest standards in music performance materials.

The first MOLA meeting was held in Philadelphia in 1983, when 25 librarians from the United States and Canada met for a day to discuss issues of common interest. Today, MOLA is an international, nonprofit corporation spanning the globe with a membership of 362 professional performing arts organizations, represented by more than 550 performance librarians from symphony orchestras, opera and ballet companies, music academies, professional bands and ensembles in North America, Europe, the Middle East, Asia, South America, and Australasia. The job of these performance librarians is to acquire, prepare, catalogue and maintain the music for each institution. Through MOLA, librarians share information and resources to help them in their daily work. Learn more at mola-inc.org.

About Gary Galván

Appointed Curator of Music Special Collections at the [Free Library of Philadelphia](#) in January 2015, Gary Galván oversees the [Edwin A. Fleisher Collection of Orchestral Music](#), the [Henry S. Drinker Choral Collection](#), and the Sheet Music Collection. The Fleisher Collection is the world's largest collection of circulating orchestral performance materials. He has lectured and written extensively on classical and Latin American music, contributing to publications such as "The New Grove Dictionary of American Music" and presenting his research around the globe.

He earned a doctorate in historical musicology at the University of Florida where he pursued complementary studies in art history and digital media and completed his dissertation, "Henry Cowell in the Fleisher Collection," while serving as a contracted researcher for the Fleisher Collection. He coordinates a team of editors and conductors producing critical editions of neglected orchestral works — including a Cuban music project — and is in charge of the re-organization and missions for the Drinker and Sheet Music Collections.

He has presented his research on 20th-century Pan American orchestral music at myriad colloquia across the nation and around the world including the International College Music Society Conference in Bangkok, Thailand, and the International Conference on New Directions in the Humanities in Granada, Spain. He has published his work in a wide array of peer-reviewed journals and texts. He coedited "Latin American Classical Composers: A Biographical Dictionary, 3rd ed." (Scarecrow Press) with Dr. Martha Schleifer and is working on a book entitled "From Cradle to Grave: Edwin Fleisher and the Pan American Symphonic Coming of Age." He facilitated the transition of "Discoveries from the Fleisher Collection," a monthly music program hosted by composer and past Fleisher Curator Kile Smith, from terrestrial radio to a monthly podcast, "[Fleisher Discoveries](#)," available online throughout the world.

A jazz and classical guitarist by training, Galván has performed internationally and taught a wide range of music topics.