

To Whom It May Concern

25 May 2010

On Friday May 7, 2010 Argentine Composer Leonardo San Juan presented a master class for composition students at the United Nations International School in New York City. The students were high school age, most of advanced level in their musical studies.

Mr. San Juan began by presenting excerpts of his own motet “Gloria” composed in 2009. The students were riveted to his presentation. For all of the students, it was a first exposure to a major work incorporating Gregorian chant, contemporary choral polyphony, the inclusion of Asian and African instrumentation. The students were spellbound. The most revealing response was to immediately ask if the high school choir director were in the building. They were not content to listen to the work. They wanted to *perform* it.

In a second hour, Mr. San Juan’s attention was directed to the students’ compositions. After listening he posed questions, which directed the students’ focus to distinctive strengths in each composition. He offered thoughtful suggestions in order to augment that strength; always maintaining “This is your composition. The decisions are entirely yours.”

Mr. San Juan’s presentation to our students was a rare privilege for which our entire music faculty is grateful. His insight was invaluable and his presence to them demonstrated warmth and respect.

We are honored to have had Leonardo San Juan share his expertise and artistry with us and look forward to a return visit.

Sincerely,

Patricio Diaz  
Director of Orchestral Studies  
United Nations International School.

