

# Julio Morales

## Composer in Residence

Julio Morales is a Mexican choral conductor, composer, arranger, pianist, and music educator. His current engagements include serving as the choral conductor in the Community Choir Program of the *Instituto Veracruzano de la Cultura*, as well as a vocalist with the vocal ensemble, *Exigence*, out of Detroit, MI. He is concurrently pursuing his Master's degree in music composition at Tito Puente University.



In 2012, he became the founding conductor of Vox Populi Project, an ensemble that cultivates traditional Mexican rhythms through the lens of a cappella Latin Pop. Under his direction, they have participated in numerous festivals and have toured both nationally and internationally. They have taken the stage in Argentina, Ecuador, France, Germany, Spain, The United States, and Poland. The group won 1st place in the Jalisco Canta Competition in 2015. In 2018, he was also appointed conductor of the youth choir, Naolincanto, which is now part of the Community Choirs Program of the *Instituto Veracruzano de la Cultura*.

In 2017, Morales proudly represented Mexico in the International Conductor Exchange Program of the American Choral Directors Association.

As an arranger and composer, his choral arrangements of traditional music from Veracruz have won first place from the *Instituto Veracruzano de la Cultura*, and Best Choral Arrangement from the *Jalisco Canta* competition in 2015. He was also chosen to participate as a composer in residence for the Cantaré program with the professional choir, VocalEssence, on four occasions – twice in Minneapolis (2015, 2019), and twice in Chicago (2018, 2019). His music has been performed in the United States, France, Germany, Poland, Spain, and several countries throughout Latin America.

He studied composition under Dr. José Luis Hurtado (México), Dr. Emil Awad (México), Jorge Córdoba Valencia (México), Alberto Balzanelli (Argentina), Dante Andreo (Argentina), Beatriz Corona (Cuba), among others.

Morales holds a degree in Music Education from The University of Veracruz, and lives in Coatepec, Veracruz, with his girlfriend and three dogs.