

Lemay O'James

**Violin Master Instructor, Music Theory Instructor
Performance Techniques, Pedagogy Specialist**

Born in Havana, Cuba in 1979, **Lemay O'James** began his journey with the violin at the young age of seven, inspired by his mother, Nerisa James Reid. His prodigious talent quickly became evident, earning him a place in the Cuban National Juvenile Symphony Orchestra where he trained in music theory and Violin studies from Elementary to Highschool under renowned conductors such as Frank Morales, Iresi Garcia, and Allan Taran. Later he honed his craft under the tutelage of the illustrious Professor Evelio Tielez at the prestigious *Amadeo Roldán Musical Conservatory* in Havana, where he received his 4-year Degree in Superior Level of Practical Violin studies and Pedagogy with multiple national awards for excellence.



In 1998, Lemay joined the **Cuban National Symphony Orchestra** as a first violinist, a position he held with distinction until 2006. During this time, he performed both nationally and internationally with celebrated artists including **Compay Segundo**, **Omara Portuondo**, and **Ibrahim Ferrer**, and collaborated under the baton of world-renowned maestros such as **Claudio Abbado**, **Daniel Barenboim**, **Francesco Belli**, and **Leo Brouwer**.

After relocating to the United States, Lemay became an American citizen and continued to share his musical brilliance in Central Florida. He has performed with the **Imperial Symphony Orchestra of Lakeland** as Assistant Concertmaster, as well as with the **Punta Gorda Symphony**, **Florida Lakes Symphony**, **South Florida Symphony**, and **The Villages Philharmonic Orchestra**. He also served as a faculty member in the music departments of **Polk State College** and **Hillsborough Community College**.

Lemay currently directs the popular performance ensemble **Pure Strings**, captivating audiences with performances spanning **classical, jazz, Latin, and contemporary popular music**—both as a soloist and ensemble leader. He remains active in live performance, including his weekly role as First Violinist with the worship orchestra of a prominent Tampa Bay mega-church.

Passionate about nurturing the next generation of musicians, Lemay has dedicated 21 years in teaching his students to master the violin. His teaching philosophy combines disciplined technique with expressive artistry, making him a sought-after educator for students of all levels.