

Israeli-Mexican-American cellist Michal Shein is a performer and master educator focused on curating cross-cultural performance projects and intensive educational initiatives. She is the Artistic Director of Cellisimo, a high level cello festival for Spanish speaking cellists with limited resources which includes masterclasses with world-class faculty, wellness sessions and community building. The festival, which is run in Spanish, has been described as "...one of the most important and unique festivals of its kind in Latin America" (- Álvaro Bitrán, cellist of the Grammy award-winning Cuarteto Latinoamericano).

Michal is recognized for her pedagogical style that nurtures her students with effective pedagogical methods for holistic and high musical advancement. Currently, she teaches at the Boston String Academy, an award-winning El Sistema inspired string program, a position she has held since 2019. This past fall, Michal joined the faculty of New England Conservatory, where she is teaching for the new and highly anticipated Teaching Artistry Concentration. Michal also serves on the faculty of the Longy School of Music of Bard College and the University of Rhode Island.

Michal's cello students have been winners in competitions, and have received admission to top festivals such as BUTI Tanglewood, Brevard, YOLA Festival, Greenwood, NSO, as well as the BEAM program. Michal has been in high demand in many Boston music programs such as NEC Preparatory School, Conservatory Lab Charter School El Sistema, Brookline Music School, BYSO, among others. Michal also teaches at several festivals, most recently at Festival Internacional de Violoncello Leon (Mexico) and will be a judge at the Concurso Internacional de Violoncello in Monterrey, Mexico in fall of 2023.

Apart from her expansive career as a cello teacher, Michal has designed and presented dozens of interactive music concerts for children in Boston, especially in economically disadvantaged areas without access to music programs. From 2011-2016, Michal collaborated with the Harp Helu Foundation in Oaxaca, Mexico,

designing a multi-year residency that included concerts, educational workshops, and a string festival.

In addition to her diverse educational work, Michal maintains a career as a soloist, orchestral cellist and chamber musician. From 2008-2013 she was Principal Cellist of the chamber orchestra Discovery Ensemble, while also immersing in baroque playing and appearing with several baroque ensembles. After a performing hiatus while her children were babies, Michal returned to her performing schedule and currently appears with many orchestras and ensembles in the Boston area including the Rhode Island Philharmonic, Portland Symphony, among others. Some highlights of this past season were collaborations with Celebrity Series of Boston, as well as a new recording of arrangement of the Vivaldi sonatas with guitarist Adam Levin.

Michal received her B.A. in Music from U.C. Berkeley where she studied with Irene Sharp. Following her undergraduate studies, Michal received the Harriet Woolley and Hertz Traveling Fellowship to study in Paris for two years with Mark Drobinsky and Gary Hoffman. Michal then received a Master's in Music M.A. at New England Conservatory, studying with Natasha Brofsky. Michal has had the honor of participating in masterclasses in the U.S. and abroad with Antonio Meneses, Anssi Kartunen, Anner Bylsma, Alexander Baillie, Bonnie Hampton, among others.

Michal lives in an intentional cohousing community in Jamaica Plain, with her husband Jonas, an outdoor educator, and her young children Noam and Hadas.