



Meet Daniel Criado, our Youth Choir Director

August 2025

Daniel Criado (pronounced Cree-ah-do) is an award-winning multi-instrumentalist musician, composer, and educator who has performed internationally across the United States, Europe, South America, Asia, and is endorsed by the renowned percussion brands Bosphorus Cymbals and CANOPUS Drums. He is also a husband, father, and skateboarder enthusiastic.

Born in Bucaramanga, Colombia, Daniel began playing guitar at an early age - the moment his mom showed him how to properly press a guitar fret - which led him into a never-ending passion for music. He was exposed to various genres growing up including Folk Colombian music, Rap, Rock, Classical, and Jazz.

He then followed his passion for teaching and earned his bachelor's degree, summa cum laude, in Symphonic Percussion majoring in Music Pedagogy from the Universidad Industrial de Santander. Soon after, Daniel moved to the United States and earned his master's in Jazz Performance from the Conservatory of Music at SUNY Purchase College, obtaining the Outstanding Graduate Award in Jazz Studies, 2018.



Since his arrival in the U.S., Daniel found a welcoming family in the Catholic community, one that reminded him of the values he was raised with at his homeland in Colombia. He became a Minister of Music at churches in the Westchester County area and continues to develop his career as an educator and as a performer through his work as pianist, organist, and choir director.



Apart from being an active member of the jazz scene of New York City, he has performed in many important venues and festivals, including Birdland Jazz Club, Jazz at Lincoln Center, Performing Arts Center at Purchase, White Plains JazzFest; and has collaborated with notable Grammy Award-winning musicians from the Jazz and Latin-Jazz world such as Corey Glover, David DeJesus, Samara Joy, Joe Ferry, the Birdland Big Band, Manuel Valera, Jerry Madera, John Benitez, Zaccai Curtis, among others. Daniel has also been awarded by the important Asakusa Jazz Contest in the category of "Best Jazz Ensemble" in Tokyo, Japan in 2018.

“Mr. Daniel” thinks especially well of the role kids have in society and aims to show the St. Matthew’s Youth Choir the presence of God in music. Join us in giving him a warm St. Matthew welcome!