

Cindy Ellis, a Cuban-American choral conductor and jazz vocalist, is the full-time middle school choral director and one of two high school choral directors at Miami Arts Studio, a 6–12 public performing arts magnet in Miami, Florida. Her award-winning ensembles have performed at prestigious venues such as Carnegie Hall, the American Choral Directors Association State, Regional and National Conferences, and the 2022 Summit of the Americas. Her students have also recorded for the Latin GRAMMYs, AMAs, and worked with artists like Gloria Estefan and Jacob Collier, including Collier's 2024 and 2025 world tours. As a performer, Ellis sings alto with the Jason Max Ferdinand Singers, appearing at the Kennedy Center, Lincoln Center, SNL, and the BBC Proms. She holds degrees from Florida International University and the University of Missouri, contributes regularly to music education publications, and is a guest clinician across North America. Ellis is the 2025 Miami Arts Studio Teacher of the Year and a multi-year GRAMMY Music Educator Semi-Finalist. Most recently, her high school women ensemble, Bellarmonia, was on the 2026 GRAMMY ballot in consideration for Best Choral Performance.