Stanford Thompson  
CEO, Play On, Philly!, Chair of the National Alliance of El Sistema-Inspired Programs

Stanford Thompson is a musician and educator who is passionate about using music for social action and serves as the CEO for the El Sistema-inspired program, Play On, Philly! and the chair of the National Alliance of El Sistema Inspired Programs. For El Sistema inspired programs he has implemented, Stanford has secured over $4 million in funding which has impacted the lives of hundreds of children in Philadelphia.

Trained as a professional trumpeter, Stanford has performed and soloed with major orchestras around the world while actively performing chamber music and jazz. Stanford is a native of Atlanta, Georgia and holds degrees from The Curtis Institute of Music and the New England Conservatory’s Abreu Fellows Program.