**Saul Bitran**, first violinist of the award-winning Cuarteto Latinoamericano, is an Associate Professor of Violin at the Boston Conservatory at Berklee. Saul has received some of Mexico and Chile’s highest artistic awards, namely the Bellas Artes Medal and the Order of Merit Pablo Neruda.

The Cuarteto Latinoamericano is one of the world's foremost string quartets. Founded in 1982, the Cuarteto has toured extensively throughout Europe, North America, South America, Asia, and Australia, as well as premiering over one hundred new works composed for the quartet. Accolades include winning two Latin Grammy Awards, multiple Grammy nominations as well the most prestigious French classical award, the Diapason d’Or.

A devoted teacher and chamber music coach, his former students now populate many of the finest orchestras in the world. Bitran was on the faculty of Carnegie Mellon University in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania from 1987 to 2008, and he was also involved with Venezuela’s Sistema for over twenty years. There, together with the Cuarteto Latinoamericano, he created the Latin American Academy for String Quartets, which operated in Caracas from 2008 until 2013. Bitran has also taught at numerous music festivals including the Dartington International Summer School, Centre d'Arts Orford, Apple Hill Center for Chamber Music, Grenoble Festival, San Miguel de Allende Chamber Music Festival, and many others.

Saul is concertmaster of Unitas Ensemble, a Boston-based orchestra committed to introduce Latin American repertoire to US audiences. As a soloist with that orchestra, he made the premiere recording of Paul Desenne’s violin concerto (The Two Seasons of the Caribbean Tropics).

As a recitalist with his frequent piano partner, Sally Pinkas, Bitran has been recently presenting a series of recitals exploring the connections between French and Latin American music.

Bitran’s noted solo appearances have included the Dallas Symphony Orchestra, the Los Angeles Philharmonic, the Seattle Symphony, San Antonio Symphony, and National Arts Center Orchestra in Ottawa, as well as with prominent conductors Esa-Pekka Salonen, Gerard Schwarz, Eduardo Mata, and Keith Lockhart, among others.

Bitran is a *cum laude* graduate of the Samuel Rubin Academy of Music in Tel Aviv, Israel, where he studied with Professor Yair Kless.   During his six years in Israel, Bitran was a substitute member of the Israel Philharmonic Orchestra, as well as concertmaster of the Herzliya Chamber Orchestra.'

"Bitran's staggering virtuosity in the live violin part was jaw-dropping" *- Florida Sun-Sentinel*