Chair of the music-history faculty at the Colburn Conservatory of Music in Los Angeles, Kristi Brown Montesano received her Ph.D. in musicology from UC Berkeley, combining her strong interest in both musical performance and scholarly research.

Her book *The Women of Mozart’s Operas*(University of California Press, 2007) offers a detailed study of the female characters in the Da Ponte operas and *The Magic Flute*. Dr. Brown Montesano has presented and published essays on music in contemporary film, opera, trends in marketing classical music, and musical culture in late 19th-century England. In 2014-15, she was honored to participate in the UCLA Musicology Department’s Distinguished Lecture Series.

An active “public musicologist,” she has been engaged by numerous organizations in Los Angeles, including the LA Opera  (“Opera for Educators”), the Opera League of Los Angeles, the Mason House Concerts, and the Colburn Orchestra. She is especially thrilled to join the LA Phil’s “Upbeat Live” faculty this concert season.