The composition, “Mujer pintando en cuarto azul,” by Mario Lavista, was commissioned by Mexican pianist Ana Cervantes to pay homage to women in Mexico. It was composed in 2013 and was immortalized in the album, *Canto de la Monarca, Mujeres en Mexico* (Quindecim, 2013). The piece was dedicated to Joy Laville, whose painting style has always been admired by Lavista (…). The title, “Mujer pintando en cuarto azul,” was inspired by an article by Jorge Ibargüengoitia, Mexican writer and husband of Joy Laville, that poetically illustrates the shades of blues of differing intensities used by the British painter. Lavista says, ‘I really like the use of space in each of her paintings, the blues that fill them completely.’ The musical palette of the composer also uses colors and registers that are entangled in a game of vibrating resonances in the air, (…) a reminder of the French impressionist school that was so dear to Lavista.”

- Elena Kopylova

**Dream of Reality: An Homage to Joy Laville**
from the MCI’s Kimberly Collection

Joy Laville created a contemplative universe, of suspended times and long pauses. There are some reminiscences in those pastels and elongated figures, which some say are post-impressionist, but hers is a unique and unclassifiable style that could encompass infinite enigmas of sweetness and pain. Also, of peace and of acceptance. In each painting there is a window into her inner world. All the more after the loss of her life partner, which caused her to temporarily replace her pastel language with shadows and hard strokes until eventually returning to them later in life. In the period of calm after the storm, to which most of the pictures presented here belong, the iconography of Laville utilizes memory and the imagination of a reality that paints and explains in dreams. There are airplanes in flight, as well as a man who serenely drifts away in a boat that will take him to the other – unknown, but safe – shore, while a woman, sometimes inside and sometimes outside of the painting, watches calmly. There is no longer pain, only a still calm that flows throughout the flat landscapes. One that floats and remains.
About Alejandro Barrañón

Born in 1967 in Mexico City, Alejandro Barrañón is one of Mexico’s leading pianists. He was awarded scholarships from the Consejo Nacional para la Cultura y las Artes, as well as from the Austrian government, to travel to Vienna. There, he studied for two years with Michael Krist at the Hochschule für Musik und darstellende Kunst. He completed his studies at the National Conservatory of Music in 1991.

As a Fulbright-García Robles grantee, he obtained his Master of Music degree in collaborative piano from The Longy School of Music in Cambridge, MA. in 2001, and his Doctor of Musical Arts degree from the University of Houston (2006). His doctoral dissertation - under the guidance of Dr. Howard Pollack and Timothy Hester - represents a significant contribution to the knowledge about Carlos Chávez’s music, particularly concerning his Études for piano. He has performed in several important festivals and venues, such as the Festival Internacional Cervantino in México, seasons of the Foundation for Modern Music in Houston, Eighth Biennial International Conference on Music since 1900 in Liverpool, UK; Festival Internacional de Música Contemporánea in La Habana, Cuba, Festival Culturel International de Musique Symphonique in Algeria.

Alejandro Barrañón combines his activities as concert pianist of Mexico’s National Institute for the Fine Arts (INBA) with his position as professor of piano at the Unidad Académica de Artes of Universidad Autónoma de Zacatecas. He also teaches courses on Twentieth-Century Music and Lieder accompaniment.

Program

Nocturne H.179 (1930)  
Gustav Holst

Six Preludes (1919)  
William Baines

Estudio No. 4 (1919-1921)  
Carlos Chávez

“Estudios homenaje a Chopin” no. 2 & 3 (1949)  
Carlos Chávez

Intermission

Adagio in E Major D. 612 (1818)  
Franz Peter Schubert

Variaciones sobre una canción francesa (1960)  
Joaquín Gutiérrez Heras

Mujer pintando en cuarto azul (2013)  
Mario Lavista

Night Music (1963)  
Benjamin Britten