About ‘La Música de México’

The Mexican Cultural Institute is excited to host its 2018 Music Series, ‘La Música de México’. The 2018 Music Series is a connected and comprehensive program of concerts, conferences, and recitals with some of Mexico and the US’s most renowned composers, musicians, and academics. The participants in this series are among the best in their respective fields, and most are affiliated with some of this country’s most distinguished academic institutions. They are musicians of Mexican descent, or US-natives who, like so many more in this country, recognize the unique contribution made by Mexicans to the cultural richness of the United States.

Curated by Mexican musician and composer Carlos Sánchez-Gutiérrez, the series will present a kaleidoscope of composers and performers of electroacoustic and mixed-media, chamber music, urban song, mariachi, sones, and more. The events will take place on the first Thursday of every month from February to December 2018. We welcome you to join every month!

Carlos Sánchez-Gutiérrez

Carlos Sánchez-Gutiérrez was born in Mexico City in 1964 and now lives in the New York tundra, where he is a Professor of Composition at the Eastman School of Music. He studies with Jacob Druckman, Martin Bresnick, Steven Mackey and Henri Dutilleux at Yale, Princeton and Tanglewood, respectively. He has received many of the standard awards in the field (e.g. Barlow Prize, Guggenheim, Fulbright, Koussevitzky, Fromm, American Academy of Arts and Letters). He likes machines with hiccups and spiders with missing legs, looks at Paul Klee’s Notebooks everyday, and tries to use the same set of ears to listen to Bach, Radiohead, or Ligeti.

The Strung Quartets of Julián Carrillo

a lecture and recital by

The Momenta Quartet and Alejandro L. Madrid

Emilie-Anne Gendron, violin
Alex Shiozaki, violin
Stephanie Griffin, viola
Michael Haas, cello

Alejandro L. Madrid, Lecturer
Known for his so-called Sonido 13 [The Thirteenth Sound], one of the earliest theorizations about microtones in the Western art music tradition, Mexican composer and music theorist Julián Carrillo (1875-1965) composed thirteen string quartets between 1903 and 1964. Notwithstanding its being a unique collection of major works for string quartet by one of Latin America’s foremost composers, this repertory has received little attention from performers and musicologists. Taken as a cycle, Carrillo’s string quartets show the diversity of aesthetic tendencies developed and embraced by the composer throughout his long artistic career. This lecture/recital offers an assessment of the historical and aesthetic importance of Carrillo’s string quartets and a performance of some of his most representative works.

### About the Momenta Quartet

Formed in 2004, the Momenta Quartet served as artist-in-residence at Temple University, which led to similar residencies at Cornell, Columbia, and Yeshiva universities, the Boston and Cincinnati conservatories, and the Eastman School of Music. The quartet has won two major commission grants from the Koussevitzky Foundation for Malaysian composer Kee Yong Chong, and Bolivian composer Agustín Fernández. Momenta has appeared at such prestigious venues as the Library of Congress, National Gallery of Art and the Smithsonian’s Freer Gallery, and has performed at the internationally renowned Cervantino Festival in Mexico and Ostrava New Music Days in the Czech Republic. The quartet’s debut album, Similar Motion, is available on Albany Records.

### Individual Biographies

Lauded by the New York Times as a “brilliant soloist” and by France’s ClasiqueInfo for her “excellent technical mastery” and “undeniable sensitivity”, Emilie-Anne Gendron enjoys an active freelance career based in New York. A deeply committed chamber musician, Ms. Gendron is a core member and frequent leader of the Sejong Soloists; a member of the Toomai String Quintet; and on the roster of the Marlboro Music Festival and the touring Musicians From Marlboro.

Praised by the New York Times as “spellbinding,” violinist Alex Shiozaki is emerging as a strong advocate for the music of today. At home with music new and old, he has appeared as a soloist on stages from Carnegie Hall, NYC, to Salle Cortot, Paris. Recent and upcoming highlights include solo appearances with the Sendai Philharmonic in Japan and AXIOM in NYC. As a chamber musician, Alex has been featured on the Wednesdays At One concert series at Alice Tully Hall and in the Focus! Festival at the Juilliard School.

Stephanie Griffin is an innovative violist and composer with an eclectic musical vision. Born in Canada and based in New York City, her musical adventures have taken her to Indonesia, Singapore, Japan, Hong Kong, England, Ireland, Germany, Belgium, Mexico and Mongolia. Stephanie founded the Momenta Quartet in 2004, is a member of the Argento Chamber Ensemble and Continuum, and serves as principal violist of the Princeton Symphony and on the faculty of Brooklyn College.

Michael Haas is a sought-after chamber musician, performing in New York City and around the world. In a recent performance his playing was noted as “refined and attractive” by the New York Times. He has recently appeared performing chamber music at Alice Tully Hall, the Kennedy Center, and as a guest at the Philadelphia Chamber Music Society. He is also a member of the New Haven Symphony, and performs regularly with the Orchestra of St. Luke's and the Princeton Symphony.

Alejandro L. Madrid is a music scholar and cultural theorist whose research focuses on the intersection of modernity, tradition, globalization, and ethnic identity in popular and art music, dance, and expressive culture from Mexico, the U.S.-Mexico border, and the circum-Caribbean. In 2017, he was awarded the prestigious Dent Medal for his “outstanding contributions to musicology” by the Royal Musical Association and the International Musicological Society. He is the only Ibero-American to receive this award since it was created in 1961.