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, curated by Carlos Sánchez-Gutiérrez 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.

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 studied 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.

November 1, 2018   Recital of chamber music with violinist, Saúl Bitrán and pianist, Sally Pinkas
December 6, 2018   Recital of Julián Carrillo’s String Quartets with musicologist, Dr. Alejandro Madrid and Momenta String Quartet

UPCOMING

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LA MÚSICA DE MÉXICO PRESENTS

RECITAL OF CHAMBER MUSIC

with

ALLA BALENA ENSEMBLE

Emlyn Johnson, flute
Tiffany Valvo, clarinet
Jacob Ertl, piano
Brant Blackard, percussion
Shannon Steigerwald, violin
Daniel Ketter, cello
Jed Gaylin, Conductor
Carlos Sánchez-Gutiérrez, Composer, Artistic Director

Thurs., Oct. 4, 2018 6:45 pm
Mexican Cultural Institute
Washington, D.C.
About the Alla Balena Ensemble

Formed in 2018 by composer Carlos Sánchez-Gutiérrez, Alla Balena Ensemble brings together a group of superb and energetic musicians with a keen interest in the music of our time. Large grey whales live an average of 70 years. Following their death, a cycle begins and evolves over the years, as their carcases descend toward the bottom of the sea, providing both nourishment and housing to hundreds of smaller species for several hundred years. A "dead" whale, therefore, far outlives a "living" one. What we call "classical music" is like a dead whale (it died around 1914...) and musicians today are like the hundreds of creatures that feed off a carcass. The tradition itself is defunct, but our unique ecosystems remain and thrive. We, therefore, proudly announce, "alla balena!", or "into the whale!"

Program

Composed by Carlos Sánchez-Gutiérrez

- Winik/Té, for solo marimba 8'
- Three Machines, for violin, cello, and piano 17'
- Trio Variations, for flute, clarinets, and piano 13'
- Diaries II, for flute, clarinet, piano, percussion, violin, and cello 14'

Jed Gaylin, Conductor

Jed Gaylin serves as Music Director of the Bay Atlantic Symphony (NJ), Johns Hopkins Symphony Orchestra, and Two Rivers Chamber Orchestra (WV). His post with Bay Atlantic Symphony is jointly held with a position as Artist in Residence at Stockton University. In addition, he is Principal Conductor of the Cape May Music Festival.

Daniel Ketter is the new Assistant Professor of Cello at Missouri State University. He is also co-director and co-founder of the American Wild Ensemble, which seeks to celebrate the people and places that define local American communities with new music. Currently, Daniel is also a doctoral candidate for a PhD in Music Theory at Eastman School of Music.

Shannon Steigerwald specializes in the study and performance of contemporary music in her career as a violinist. A dedicated collaborator, she pursues working with young composers, giving many premieres of her colleagues' compositions. Steigerwald is a founding member and on the administrative board for Ensemble id. She teaches at the University of Buffalo as the adjunct violin professor.

Tiffany Válvo, a charismatic performer, teacher and clarinetist is currently the Assistant Professor of Clarinet at Virginia Commonwealth University. She has been a lecturer of music at both Nazareth College and Syracuse University, and has performed at the Sante Fe Chamber Music Festival, the Kennedy Center, with the Richmond Symphony, and more.

Jed Gaylin

Brant Blackard is an active performer, educator, and arranger based out of Rochester, New York. Brant has performed at the Percussive Arts Society International Convention with Blake Tyson in 2012 and the Eastman School of Music Percussion Ensemble, in 2013 and 2017. Brant Blackard is currently pursuing his Doctorate in Performance and Literature at the Eastman School of Music.

Daniel Ketter

Jed Gaylin, Conductor

Brant Blackard

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