About the curator

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.

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.

December 6, 2018 / Recital of Julián Carrillo’s String Quartets with musicologist, Dr. Alejandro Madrid and Momenta String Quartet

Upcoming

Thursday November 1, 2018
at the Mexican Cultural Institute
Washington, D.C.
Sally Pinkas, pianist

Since her London debut at Wigmore Hall, Israeli-born pianist Sally Pinkas has been heard as soloist and chamber musician throughout the world. Among her career highlights are performances with the Boston Pops, the Aspen Philharmonia and New York’s Jupiter Symphony, and appearances at the festivals of Marlboro, Tanglewood, Aspen and Rockport, as well as Kfar Blum in Israel, Officina Scotese in Italy, and Masters de Pontlevoy in France. Committed to working with young artists, she has presented Masterclasses at Oxford and Harvard Universities, the Conservatorio Di Musica S. Cecilia in Rome, the China Conservatory in Xian and the Ho Chi Minh City Conservatory, to name a few.

Praised for her radiant tone and driving energy, Pinkas commands a wide range of repertoire. In 2015 she made her debut in the Philippines, performing and recording rarely-heard Filipino Salon Music for the University of the Philippines’ Centennial. With her husband Evan Hirsch (The Hirsch-Pinkas Piano Duo) she has toured widely, and has premiered and recorded works by Rochberg, Pinkham, Peter Child, Kui Dong and Thomas Oboe Lee. She is a member of Ensemble Schumann, an Oboe-Viola-Piano Trio, and collaborates frequently with the Adaskin String Trio, the Apple Hill String Quartet and the UK-based Villiers Quartet.

Pinkas’ extensive discography includes solo works by Schumann, Debussy, Rochberg, Ileana Pérez-Velázquez and Christian Wolff for the MSR, Cентал, Naxos, Albany and Mode labels. Long drawn to the music of Gabriel Fauré, she followed her critically-acclaimed release of Fauré’s 13 Nocturnes (on Musica Omnia) with a recording of Fauré’s Piano Quartets and his 13 Barcarolles, earning the title “A Fauré Master Returns” on an enthusiastic review by ClassicsToday. The Wall Street Journal noted her “exquisite performance” in her “superlatively well-played” recording of Harold Shapero’s Piano Music, released on the UK label Toccata Classics.

Pinkas holds performance degrees from Indiana University and the New England Conservatory of Music, and a Ph.D. in Composition from Brandeis University. Her principal teachers were Russell Sherman, George Sebok, Luise Vogserchian and Genia Bar-Niv (piano), Sergiu Natra (composition), and Robert Koff (chamber music). Pianist-in-residence at the Hopkins Center at Dartmouth College, she is Professor of Music at Dartmouth’s Music Department.

Saúl Bitrán, violinist

Saúl Bitrán, first violinist with the award-winning Cuarteto Latinoamericano, was born in Mexico City, to Chilean parents. He is a recipient of the highest artistic awards given by Mexico and Chile, namely the Bellas Artes Medal (in 2000) and the Order of Merit Pablo Neruda (in 2014), respectively.

The Cuarteto Latinoamericano, winner of Latin Grammys in 2012 and 2016, was established in 1982, and is known worldwide as the main exponent of the string quartet literature by Latin American composers.

In addition to the quartet, Bitran serves as Artist-in-Residence at the College of the Holy Cross in Worcester, MA, where he teaches violin and chamber music. Also, he is the violinist with the Boston based Trio Tremonti, and concertmaster of Unitas Ensemble, Boston’s only orchestra devoted exclusively to Latin American repertoire.

Between 1987 and 2008, Saúl was Associate Professor and Artist in Residence at Carnegie Mellon University in Pittsburgh. Besides his regular teaching activities, Bitrán has taught in numerous music festivals around the world, such as Dartington International Summer School (1994 and 2004), Centre d’Arts Orford, Chamber Music Institute at Holy Cross, Grenoble Festival, Cartagena International Festival, and many others.

Cuarteto Latinoamericano has recorded most of the string quartet repertoire by Latin American composers, in over 70 CDs for various international labels. These albums have become, according to many music critics, the reference recordings for this repertoire.

As first violinist of the Cuarteto Latinoamericano, Bitrán has been soloist with the Dallas Symphony Orchestra, the Los Angeles Philharmonic, the Seattle Symphony, the San Antonio Symphony, the National Arts Center Orchestra in Ottawa among many other orchestras, under conductors Esa-Pekka Salonen, Gerard Schwarz, Eduardo Mata, Keith Lockhart and others.

Bitrán graduated from the Rubin Academy of Tel Aviv, Israel, where he studied with Prof. Yair Kless, During his stay in Israel, Saúl played in the Israel Philharmonic Orchestra, and was concertmaster and frequent soloist of several orchestras in that country. As first violinist of the Rubin Academy String Quartet, Saúl performed throughout Israel and Europe.

Saúl Bitrán divides his time between Mexico City and Boston.