About Maestro Julio Estrada

Born in Mexico City in 1943, Julio Estrada’s family was exiled from Spain in 1941. A composer, theoretician, historian, pedagogue, and interpreter, he began his musical studies in Mexico (1953-65), where he studied composition with Julián Orbón. In Paris (1965-69) he studied with Nadia Boulanger, Messiaen and attended courses and lectures of Xenakis. In Germany he studied with Stockhausen (1968) and with Ligeti (1972).

He earned a Ph. D. in Musicology at Strasbourg University (1990-1994). In 1974 he became researcher in music at the Instituto de Estéticas, IIE/UNAM, where he was appointed as the Chair of a project on Mexican Music History and Head of MúsIC, Música, Sistema Interactivo de Investigación y Composición, a musical system designed by himself.

He is the first music scholar to be honored as member of the Science Academy of Mexico and by the Mexican Education Ministry as National Researcher [since 1984]. The French Ministry of Culture decorated him with the Ordre des Arts et des Lettres (1981, 1986). He created a Composition Seminar at UNAM, where he has been teaching Compositional Theory and Philosophy of Composition.

- Words by Mode Records

The Mexican Cultural Institute Presents

Fonema Consort

Nina Dante - soprano
Dalia Chin - flute
Kathryn Schulmeister - double bass
Ellery Trafford - percussion
Daniel Walden - piano
Pablo Santiago Chin - artistic director

Featuring Composer Julio Estrada

Tonight’s performance is part of the Smithsonian Year of Music 2019

The Smithsonian Year of Music is an Institution-wide initiative to increase public engagement, advance understanding, and connect communities in Washington, D.C., across the nation, and around the globe. The Smithsonian Year of Music highlights and shares our vast musical holdings, bringing together our resources in history, art, culture, science, and education.

Thursday, November 21, 2019
Mexican Cultural Institute
Washington, D.C.
Fonema Consort: a group of instrumentalists and singers performing together. Fonema: (Spanish, phoneme) the smallest unit of speech, which distinguishes words according to their sonic quality.

These concepts define the essence of Fonema Consort as they commission, perform, and record new music that explore the possibilities of the human voice in an avant-garde chamber setting. Known for their “enthusiastic embrace of daring new music” (Chicago Reader), Fonema is driven by a fascination with pieces that foster the rich interplay of voices and instruments and that are characterized by a deep expressibility. The ensemble is highly committed to presenting works by Latin American composers to US audiences and encouraging musical exchange between these regions.

Fonema Consort was founded in 2011 by singer Nina Dante and composers Pablo Santiago Chin and Edward Hamel. Since its creation, the ensemble has premiered over 50 works, and traveled widely across the US and Latin America.

Maestro and composer Julio Estrada will give a pre-concert conference on Mexican music and composers in the XXI century.

Fonema is proud to present the world premiere of Yuunohu’is’a the final piece in Mexican composer Julio Estrada’s monumental work, the Yuunohu’i cycle. Yuunohu’is’a was commissioned with the friendly support of the Ernst von Siemens Foundation. The program also features an excerpt from Estrada’s opera Murmullos de Páramo, “Mictlan”, as well as a rarely heard work by Argentinian composer Graciela Paraskevaidis (Sin ir más lejos).

Ensemble Yuunohui: Yuunohui’is’a’ehcatl’nahui’tlapoa .......... Julio Estrada

Sin ir más lejos .......................................................... Graciela Paraskevaidis

Mictlan ..................................................................... Julio Estrada

With the friendly support of the Ernst von Siemens Foundation.