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FLAUTA ANDINA

20th Century Andean Music for Flute and Piano

CÁRDENAS • DURÁN • FREIRE • GUEVARA • ZYMAN

Daniel Velasco, Flute • Ellen R. Sommer, Piano

Flauta Andina

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Sixto María Durán (1875–1947):

Leyenda incásica (c. 1916)

Born in 1875 in Quito, Durán was a prolific composer, pianist and sought-after lawyer. *Leyenda incásica* ('Incan Legend') is part of a set of four *Leyendas* for flute (or violin) and piano. The other three are *Leyenda tropical*, *Leyenda quiteña* and *Leyenda ecuatorial*.

Leyenda incásica is a popular piece among Ecuadorian flautists as it portrays some of the best qualities of the instrument. Lyrical, free lines, a virtuosic cadenza and playful dances come together in this crowd-pleaser. The most notable Ecuadorian genre in this piece is the *sanjuanito*. A popular dance in 2/4, it was utilised to accompany the celebrations of summer solstice as well as the Catholic rituals honoring Saint John the Baptist, Saint Peter and Saint Paul.

Jacinto Freire (b. 1950):

Suite for Flute and Piano (1982)

This *Suite* in three movements by Jacinto Freire comprises a collection of popular Ecuadorian dance genres.

The composer's inspiration for the opening movement *Mi Poncho*, a *tonada* dance in 6/8, was the display of the bright colours of the dresses worn by indigenous Andean women while dancing at traditional celebrations. While this movement is slow and somewhat melancholy, the motion of the dance and rhythmic pulse are always present.

The second movement, *El Pajonal*, is a slow version of the *yumbo* dance. The figure comprising a quaver followed by a crotchet continuously propels the dance forward. The cadenza in the middle of the movement features the lyrical and expressive capabilities of the flute, reaching some of the highest notes in the range.

The closing movement, *El Cóndor*, is a *sanjuanito*. Scalic and swift passages resemble the flight of the national bird of Ecuador, the condor. According to the composer, the cadenza in the middle of the movement was inspired by a condor catching its prey, dismembering it, and returning to its flight in the Andes Mountains.

Gerardo Guevara (b. 1930):

Diálogos (1982)

Gerardo Guevara is one of Ecuador's most famed and accomplished composers. He studied composition with Nadia Boulanger at the École Normale de Musique in Paris as well as musicology at La Sorbonne. *Diálogos* for flute and piano was written in 1982, and dedicated to Ecuadorian flautist Luciano Carrera. A technically demanding flute part combined with virtuosic piano writing results in an exciting and unique score. The piece combines Ecuadorian nationalist elements (particularly the *yumbo* and *tonada* dances) and contemporary techniques. It is atonal in nature and features variations of pentatonic scales throughout.

Leonardo Cárdenas (b. 1968):

En el Centro del Mundo y el Tiempo (2019)

Commissioned by Daniel Velasco in 2018, *En el Centro del Mundo y el Tiempo* is a suite in four movements for flute and piano written by Ecuadorian composer Leonardo Cárdenas. It was premiered by the commissioner and pianist Ellen R. Sommer at Grinnell College in 2019, and has been positively received by audiences throughout the US and South America.

Composer Leonardo Cárdenas is one of the most active Ecuadorian musicians of today. For this piece he draws inspiration from the landscapes of the Ecuadorian Andes, and uses traditional genres including the lively *albazo*, the popular traditional love song *pasillo*, and the pre-Columbian *yumbo*.

Daniel Velasco

Samuel Zyman (b. 1956):

Flute Sonata No. 1 (1994)

I wrote my *Flute Sonata No. 1* in 1994. The work was commissioned by Mexican flautist Marisa Canales, who recorded and premiered it with Argentinian pianist Ana María Tradatti the same year. Venezuelan flautist Marco Granados performed it in 1996 at the National Flute Association Convention in Chicago. Since then, this sonata has become my best-known composition and has entered the standard repertoire. It is frequently performed all over the world and has been a required piece at flute competitions. Throughout the piece, flute and piano are treated as equal partners, sharing motivic material between them and engaging in intense contrapuntal dialogues. The first movement, *Allegro assai*, is fast, energetic and virtuosic, often showcasing the flute's high register, although the movement also has a slow and introspective section in the middle. The second movement, *Lento e molto espressivo*, is lyrical and expressive, at times emphasising the flute's low register and its ability to sustain long notes. The third movement, *Presto*, is lightning fast, rhythmic and outgoing, almost pushing the players to the edge. This movement features a cadenza-like section and a brief reference to the lyrical theme from the second movement.

Samuel Zyman

Daniel Velasco



Photo: Emmalee Schaumburg

Award-winning flautist Daniel Velasco is currently associate professor of flute at the University of Kansas, flautist and founding member of Miami's NuDeco Ensemble and a Yamaha Performing Artist. He has been awarded First Prize at the National Flute Association's Young Artist Competition and WAMSO Minnesota Orchestra Competition among others, and has appeared as a soloist with the Minnesota Orchestra, National Symphony Orchestra of Ecuador, Luciano Carrera Chamber Orchestra and multiple university orchestras and wind ensembles. He is a frequently featured guest at flute clubs and concert series around the US and South America, and has been invited to perform at several National Flute Association Conventions. Orchestral and chamber music festivals include residencies with the Orchestre de la Francophonie, Utah Festival Opera and Chamber Music on the Mountain as well as tours across Chile and Central America with the Orchestra of the Americas. Velasco earned a doctoral degree from the University of Miami, and holds degrees from the University of Michigan, The University of Texas at Austin and the University of Northern Iowa. His main teachers include Angeleita Floyd, Marianne Gedigian, Amy Porter and Trudy Kane.

www.velascoflute.com

Ellen R. Sommer



Photo: www.janisphoto.com

Pianist Ellen R. Sommer is an internationally acclaimed collaborative pianist, chamber musician and coach. Recent successes include a chamber recital performance at the Montgomery Arts House for Music and Architecture with Maria Newman, Scott Hosfeld and instrumentalists from the Metropolitan Opera orchestra, and a series of concerts and masterclasses at the Universidad de Costa Rica and Casa de la Música Quito, Ecuador. Sommer can be heard on numerous professional recordings, including releases on Potenza Music, *The Gorgeous Nothings* featuring works by composer Ingrid Stölzel (Navona Records/PARMA Recordings) and *Tone Studies* with saxophonist Nicolas May (Albany Records). She is a founding member of the Allégresse trio, which has been the recipient of the National Endowment for the Arts American Masterpieces: Chamber Music Grant and has performed internationally. Sommer serves as a pianist for regional, national and international conferences, competitions and festivals as well as concert series and radio broadcasts. She is currently an associate professor of the practice at the University of Kansas School of Music, teaching collaborative piano. She performs regularly with faculty, visiting artists and students.

www.ellensommerpiano.com

The rich variety of colours and rhythms in South American culture and music are an essential feature of this programme, which focuses largely on music by composers from the Ecuadorian Andes. Opening with Durán's popular and crowd-pleasing *Leyenda incásica*, the theme of Ecuadorian dances continues in Jacinto Freire's *Suite*, which also celebrates the flight of the condor. Virtuosity, evocations of landscape and expressive traditional songs can all be found here, concluding with Mexican composer Samuel Zyman's internationally acclaimed *Flute Sonata No. 1*, which ranges from lyrical introspection to intensely contrapuntal dialogue.

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Sixto María Durán (1875–1947)		Leonardo Cárdenas (b. 1968)	
1 <i>Leyenda incásica</i> (c. 1916) (version for flute and piano) 6:40		En el Centro del Mundo y el Tiempo (2019)* 19:15	
Jacinto Freire (b. 1950)		6 I. Yaraví y tristeza en azul 5:54	
Suite for Flute and Piano (1982) 10:26		7 II. Albazo y vuelo en verano 2:36	
2 I. Mi Poncho (Tonada) 3:13		8 III. Pasillo en tiempo de esperanza y lluvia 4:48	
3 II. El Pajonal (Yumbo lento) 4:47		9 IV. Yumbo telúrico 5:52	
4 III. El Cóndor (Sanjuanito) 2:18		Samuel Zyman (b. 1956)	
Gerardo Guevara (b. 1930)		Flute Sonata No. 1 (1994) 18:15	
5 <i>Diálogos</i> (1982) 7:42		10 I. Allegro assai 6:51	
		11 II. Lento e molto espressivo 5:46	
		12 III. Presto 5:34	

***WORLD PREMIERE RECORDING**

Daniel Velasco, Flute • Ellen R. Sommer, Piano

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