



# Music Composition and Technology Showcase

Wednesday April 5, 2023 · 7:30 PM  
Performing Arts Recital Hall



CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, SAN BERNARDINO

# Program

***Fleeting Reflections* for strings and percussion**

**by Francisco Javier Sanchez Montes**

performed by Adam Arroyo, Karina Gomez-Torres,  
Gabriel Knights-Herrera, Dylan Munger, and Francisco Sanchez

***Elegy for violin and piano***

**by Gabriel Knights-Herrera**

performed by Gabriel Knights-Herrera and Allie Morones

***Synths and Strings for fixed media***

**by Uriel Ortiz Avila**

***Sambe del Coyote* for viola, guitar, and percussion**

**by Aldo Ramirez**

performed by Adam Arroyo, Joseph Lopez, and Dylan Munger

***Ferris Wheel for fixed media***

**by Scott Williams**

***黄昏 (Tasogare)* for viola and guitar**

**by Joseph Lopez**

performed by Adam Arroyo and Diego Duenas

***Adagio con Espressione* for violin and piano**

**by Gabriel Knights-Herrera**

performed by Gabriel Knights-Herrera and Allie Morones

***Todos Tus Dolores* for three guitars and percussion**

**by Diego Duenas Hernandez**

performed by Diego Duenas, Dylan Munger, Aldo Ramirez, and  
Francisco Sanchez

***Paracosm for live electronics***

**by Angela Rodriguez**

# Ongoing

***Chimera***

**by David Andres Lemoine**

Sound-art installation ongoing before and after the concert

# Program Notes

## Francisco Sanchez on *Fleeting Reflections*:

When I received news of my previous instructor's health, I was struck by the fleeting nature of time and the inevitability of our own mortality. This composition explores these themes through the use of vibraphone, glockenspiel, and strings. The vibraphone represents time, while the glockenspiel symbolizes youth and the strings convey the depth of human emotion. As the piece progresses, the different parts engage in increasingly complex conversations, yet they are never fully synchronized, reminding us of our lack of control over time. I hope that this composition encourages the listener to reflect on their own mortality and the importance of living in the present moment.

## Gabriel Knights-Herrera on *Elegy and Adagio Con Espressione*:

The *Elegy* for violin and piano is an early work that aims to model itself after the late-romantic style of chamber works for instrumentalists and pianists. The piano opens with a series of muted seventh chords to set the somber, but flowing feel of the work before the violin enters and reinforces the G Minor key with a strummed chord. Entering together, the violin dolefully sings the melody overtop the piano as it provides a rich and melancholy darkness underneath. The *Elegy* takes a short break, bringing a bright edge of happy relief as it briefly belts a short secondary melody in the relative key of B-flat Major before returning the mournful melody in G Minor.

The *Adagio con Espressione* for violin and piano takes inspiration from the emerging French styles of classical music in the early 20th century. Specifically, the work takes inspiration from forgotten composer Louis Dumas and his *Lamento* for viola and piano, and more, by comparison, well-known composer Germaine Tailleferre and her *Pastorale* for violin and piano. The work takes direct inspiration from Dumas' work by recomposing his dark, ominous and brooding piano writing in order to harmonically support the more lyrical line overlaid by the violin, which is inspired by Tailleferre. With the melodic line, it follows Tailleferre's work by centering in on the more lyrical qualities and its ability to sing overtop the harmonies presented by the piano. The *Adagio* also represents a personal development in style, with the beginning stages of experimenting with harmonies, dissonance, and chord progressions while still maintaining feelings of lyricism and late-romantic styles.

### **Uriel Avila on *Synths and Strings*:**

My intention with this piece is to present a blend of digital synthesizers, analog recordings, and live guitar playing. The synths in this piece will consist of a free-source digital synthesizer that emulates an analog synthesizer. I am using this project as a launching pad for becoming more autonomous with my personal production and sound engineering skills. Essentially, this piece will be the introduction to my own venture of musical and technological independence.

### **Aldo Ramirez on *Samba del Coyote*:**

“Samba” is a term used to describe many different Brazilian musical genres, and rhythmic tropes used within them. I drew from a number of classic and contemporary influences, such as the iconic bossa nova piece *Girl From Ipanema*, composed by the Brazilian composer Antonio Carlos Jobim, *Samba* by the French artist Clea Vincent, and Nelson Cavaquinho’s *Juizo Final*. I decided to use the marimba not only because of its classification of “percussive instrument,” but also due to its capacity for producing multiple pitches. Though the use of the classical guitar in *Juizo Final* is distinct, I thought the use of that particular instrument would add a lot to the texture of this composition. It also happens to be the instrument I’m most familiar with. I wanted to branch out from instruments I’m comfortable writing for, such as the piano (an instrument that shares many similarities with the piano,) and of course, the classical guitar. The viola felt like an excellent choice, due to my prior experience with bowing instruments while still being unfamiliar enough to provide a challenge.

### **Scott Williams on *Ferris Wheel*:**

*Ferris Wheel* was produced with classic 90’s R&B inspirations. Paying homage to the traditional form of ‘Love’ music the instrumentation was selected with a number of notable hits in mind.

### **Joseph Lopez on 黄昏 (*Tasogare*):**

There is no deep, meaningful purpose for this piece. The main section was quickly put together near 2AM as a way to express my frustration with myself at the beginning of this year. The guitar part is typical of my style and the viola part was what I naturally hummed that night as if I was losing sleep. The rest of the piece pulls from my various progressive influences.

### **Diego Duenas Hernandez on *Todos Tus Dolores*:**

*Todos Tus Dolores* is a short bolero inspired by arrangements made famous by some of the early to mid 20th century musicians and recording artists such as Julio Jaramillo, Daniel Santos, and Pedro Infante. It is a trio piece that includes 3 classical guitars with interchanging leads and harmonies. The lead melodies are supposed to give a sense of an ambiguous rhythmic flow against the steady percussive rhythm behind it. It's always been an interest of mine to write and explore the methods that boleros from that era were composed, specifically when it came to emotion within a piece. The title *Todos Tus Dolores* is supposed to be a reference to a cathartic experience, pouring one's soul and ailments into art and bringing it to life.

### **Angela Rodriguez on *Paracosm*:**

The goal of *Paracosm* is to combine several different samples in order to create a new track. Each clip is connected to a launchpad, allowing for free improvisation in blending the samples together. This includes combining drum loops, chords to make a chord progression, and several melodic fragments to create a unique live experience.

### **David Lemoine on *Chimera*:**

*Chimera* is an art installation that focuses on colorful and creative soundscapes. *Chimera* is a dream or vision you have when one falls asleep during a dreamstate. A dream that seems real in the mind, yet it's just an illusion and that dream will never come true.

# About the Composers

**Uriel Ortiz Avila** is a transfer student going on to his 2nd year of attendance at Cal State San Bernardino studying music with a focus on music technology. Uriel is heavily involved in his community as a musician and sound engineer. His main goal is to finish school and continue performing and working as an audio engineer, both in the studio and in live settings.

**Diego Dueñas Hernandez** grew up with music surrounding his everyday life. Growing up his father always played music he called “viejitas” (Mexican oldies), and as an adolescent, his interest in music was passed down by his older brother and older cousins. Genres like punk, rock, heavy metal, and ska played a huge role in his upbringing which even inspired him to join a few local bands during late high school. As time passed, his interest in music evolved rather than diminished; now he’s a composition student at California State University of San Bernardino with aspirations and passions to pursue careers in composition for film and audio engineering to produce recordings for live and studio performances.

**David Lemoine** is a 4th-year student at Cal State San Bernardino studying Music. David is an active student that is heavily involved in the campus and community. He is currently playing in the CSUSB Symphony Orchestra as the principal percussionist and is also a member of the Percussion Ensemble. David’s future career goal is to focus on audio engineering, computer programming in music, or video game design.

**Joseph Lopez** was 14 when he was stuck one day inside a gymnasium due to pouring rain outside, preventing a proper P.E. class. This day would end up changing his life forever, as a kid with a broken leg would teach him the intro riff to “One” by Metallica. This was the spark for a lifelong affair with music that has resulted in over 100 pieces of music. For over 20 years, Joseph has always leaned more into writing music than actually playing it. It would take Joseph many years to realize his hobby was the only profession that would keep him fulfilled. He is currently finishing his bachelor’s degree at California State University San Bernardino after transferring in from San Bernardino Valley College as a first generation college student. Joseph lives in San Bernardino with his three children and an unhealthy guitar collection.

**Gabriel Knights-Herrera** is currently an undergraduate student at CSUSB pursuing a double Bachelor's of Music in Viola Performance and Music Education. While having an extensive performance background that includes large ensembles, chamber groups and outside genres, Gabriel also has an interest in composition. Currently, Gabriel studies music composition under Dr. Kevin Zhang. As a new and emerging composer, Gabriel has begun focusing on writing smaller chamber works inspired by the late-romantic and early 20th century traditions. He plans to eventually also work with larger form compositions ranging from symphonic works to choral pieces and to explore the intersections of composition and private instrumental instruction.

**Aldo Ramirez** is an undergraduate student attending California State University San Bernardino in pursuit of a general music degree, and a minor in music technology. Their musical journey started in the fourth grade, when they had the opportunity to play the violin for their elementary school's orchestra. Later, in middle school, they got a taste for Latin music through the school's mariachi ensemble, in which they got an opportunity to sing, as well as continuing to play the violin. They didn't truly develop a passion for music until they got their hands on a guitar through San Bernardino High School's music program. The accessibility of the guitar, in terms of notation in the form of tablature and a wider selection of songs, was the catalyst for a significantly greater interest in playing music. Aldo carries a number of influences that range from progressive and math rock, to folk and punk (and folk punk,) due to their exposure to these genres during their formative years.

**Angela Rodriguez** is currently an undergraduate student at CSUSB pursuing a Bachelor's of Arts in Music with a minor in Music Technology. As a music technologist and DJ, Angela has performed live sets at several events held on campus and regularly called on for departmental activities. She takes inspiration largely from chiptune music, French House and EDM when curating her sets.

**Scott Williams** (Scottie Beamen/DJ HigherLvl) is a senior at CSUSB with studies in Business and Music Technology. He has been producing for over 10 years and is a member of 'Camp Ground Music Group. While being a pianist, he has had prior experience with drums, and violin. His inspiration derives from many genres of music, but specifically Hip Hop, R&B, Blues, and Jazz.



Department of Music