

ENCUENTRO PUERTORRIQUEÑO DE CREACIÓN MUSICAL / CONCERT 1:  
VANGUARDIAS AL CORAZÓN DEL TRÓPICO, ÁLEA 21

Recital Hall  
Smith Memorial Hall  
Thursday, March 30, 2023  
8:00 PM

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MANUEL CEIDE      **Radicalía** (2004)

Solimar Santiago, *voz femenina*  
Melisa Nieves, *piano*  
Manuel Ceide, *bajo eléctrico*  
Nubia García, *coro hablado*  
Diana García, *coro hablado*  
Cristina Vives, *coro hablado*

JOHN RIVERA PICO      **Donde II** (2022)

Nubia García, *voz soprano*  
Cristina Vives, *flauta*  
Ema Quiñones, *clarinete*  
Diana García, *violoncelo*  
Melisa Nieves, *piano*  
Javier Flores, *percusión*  
Manuel Ceide, *director*

FRANCIS SCHWARTZ      **La gloria acéfala de Andrea Chenier** (1989)

Manuel Ceide, *pianista*

RAFAEL APONTE-LEDÉE      **Relatos de un paisaje asesinado** (1976)  
Realización de Álea 21

Cristina Vives, *flauta*  
Mitchell Soto, *violín*  
Diana García, *violoncelo*  
Manuel Ceide, *bajo eléctrico*  
Melisa Nieves, *piano*  
Javier Flores, *percusión*  
Rafael Zayas, *electrónica*

**Tema y seis diferencias (1963)**

Melisa Nieves, *piano*

**Situaciones (1968)**

Cristina Vives, *flauta alto*

Ema Quiñones, *clarinete bajo*

Melisa Nieves, *piano*

Rafael Zayas, *contrabajo*

Javier Flores, *percusión*

Manuel Ceide, *director*

MANUEL CEIDE

**Fiero y Tierno (2010)**

Solimar Santiago, *voz femenina*

Cristina Vives, *flauta*

Ema Quiñones, *clarinete*

Diana García, *violoncelo*

Melisa Nieves, *piano*

Rafael Zayas, *bajo eléctrico*

Manuel Ceide, *director*

FRANCIS SCHWARTZ

**Canciones de soledad (1991)**

*Soledad absoluta*. Texto de Josemilio González

*El Dios abandonado*. Texto de Miguel de Ferdinandy

*The Fifth*. Texto de Anna Akhmatova

*La luna*. Texto de Jorge Luís Borges

*I want to know*. Texto de Allen Ginsberg

Nubia García, *voz femenina*

Mitchell Soto, *violín*

Ema Quiñones, *clarinete*

Melisa Nieves, *piano*

Manuel Ceide, *director*

## Manuel J Ceide

Composer, bassist, educator and director specialized in contemporary chamber music. He is Associate Professor in the Department of Composition at the Conservatory of Music of Puerto Rico, within which he has carried out directing tasks, having been in charge of the creation and development of the Experimental Music Laboratory programs. Founder and director of the contemporary camera group *Álea 21*. He studied music at the Royal Conservatory of Music in Madrid, Berklee College of Music in Boston, the Rotterdam Conservatory and the Hogeschool voor de Kunsten Utrecht (HKU) in the Netherlands, where he studied composition with Henk Alkema and Peter -Jan Wagemans.

He has taught at the Inter-American University of Puerto Rico, and has also appeared as a visiting professor at the Butarque Institute in Madrid and the University of La Rioja in Spain, Berklee College of Music in Boston, the University of Havana in Cuba and the Río Piedras campus and Bayamón from the University of Puerto Rico. Frequent collaborator with the Puerto Rico Symphony Orchestra in writing programs and as a lecturer.

In the field of research, he has collaborated with articles for the Casa de las Américas *Music Bulletin* in Havana, as well as in publications for IASPM Latin America and MUSAM at the Complutense University of Madrid, in collaboration with the Spanish Society of Musicology. His artistic career has been characterized by intense activity in the field of contemporary music. His work as a member or in charge of the projects stands out: *El Aeroplano* in Galicia, Spain, The Composers of New England Collective in Boston, the *Nieuw Muziek Group* in Utrecht, the *Netherlands* and *Álea 21*, a contemporary music group in residence at the Conservatory of Puerto Rican music.

*Álea 21*, which he founded and has directed since 2005, is a key player in the development of contemporary music in the country, with a pedagogical dimension that has an impact on broad academic circles. The group has performed more than 70 concerts, currently having a high number of premieres in Puerto Rico, as well as more than 40 world premieres.

President and director of the *Álea 21 Cabinet*, a cultural management project created from the artistic production of the group. He is the founder and director of the Caribbean avant-garde chamber music festival *Flores y Balas*, whose objective, since its first edition in 2013, is to create communication channels between Cuban and Puerto Rican composers and researchers within thematic projects created from aesthetics of Vanguard. Within the framework of these meetings, he has established close professional ties with Cuba. He appears as a guest composer at the *Latin American Composition and Interpretation Workshop*, in its III, IV and V editions, convened by the Union of Writers and Artists of Cuba (UNEAC) and the Casa de las Américas in Havana. He is

invited to the *Casa de las Américas Composition Award* in its 2015 edition, where, in addition to his presentations as a speaker, he directs concerts and open workshops in front of his group *Álea 21*. In that same year he served as a guest speaker at the *Festival of Chamber Music* Leo Brouwer.

Since 2015, he has been a lecturer and member of the academic committee of the theoretical colloquium *La nostalgia del futuro*, as well as co-founder, director and composer of the eponymous interpretation project of experimental chamber music, integrated within the structure of the *Havana Festival of Contemporary Music* and with which he has carried out an intense presence on stage. He is part of the faculty of the Diploma and current Master's Degree in Management of the documentary historical heritage of music, organized by the Esteban Salas Musical Heritage Cabinet, of the San Gerónimo de La Habana University College, where he teaches contemporary musical heritage in Latin America and the Caribbean: poetics and avant-garde and his practical workshop, Musical Notation and Music of the 20th century, also directing the master's thesis.

He has been a member of the jury for the composition prize of the Ateneo Puertorriqueño in San Juan and president of the jury for the Hermanos Saíz Association prize *Commutations* in Havana. In 2017 he was invited to participate as a jury in the prestigious Casa de las Américas Award for composition. He presents himself as a keynote speaker at the 2015 edition of the *Havana International Jazz Festival* with the conference "La gris melancolía by Ulrike Meinhof poetics and imaginaries between Jazz and experimental chamber music". Member of the organizing committee and speaker at the XIII Congress of the Latin American Branch of IASPM, held in San Juan. Speaker at the II International Congress MUSAM, of the Spanish Society of Musicology at the Complutense University of Madrid.

As a director he develops an intense work directed towards making visible the Latin American and Caribbean experimental repertoire. The world premiere of the work *Episodios del Libro de Manuel* by the Cuban composer Wilma Alba Cal and the premiere in Puerto Rico (world premiere in its Spanish version) of the chamber opera *El Cimarrón* by the German composer Hans Werner Henze deserve special mention. In 2019, he directed the revival of the work *Impronta*, by Cuban composer Carlos Fariñas, in Havana, leading the group *Percuba ensemble* and with pianist Mayté Aboy as soloist.

As a composer, his music has been frequently programmed in Spain, the United States, Brazil, the Netherlands, Belgium, Puerto Rico and Cuba. Several of his works have been programmed in different editions of the *Inter-American Festival* and the *Ibero-American Festival of the Arts*, in Puerto Rico. The aesthetic dimension of his creation, characterized by a collective concept of interaction with the performers, as well as by frequent theatrical and literary references as a structural starting point, can be seen in his works such as *Radicalia*, *Ulrike Meinhoff's Gray Melancholy*, *So that the dream alive*, *Milton does not exist*, *Amores Sector-IV* and *Fiero y tender*.

His work *Wild Music of the Birds* will be premiered next June in the German city of Regensburg by the flutist Claudia Gerauer.

## **John Rivera Pico**

Born 24 July 1993 in San Juan, he pursued his studies at the Puerto Rico Conservatory of Music where he studied under the supervision of guitarists Luis E. Juliá and Alberto Rodríguez Ortiz. He also studied composition with various professors such as Manuel Ceide, Carlos Cabrer and William Ortiz. After completing his studies in Puerto Rico, John traveled to Italy to study with composer Luca Cori in Milan and with guitarist Oscar Ghiglia at the Incontri chitarristici di Gargnano.

During his career as a performer, John has dedicated himself to the study and interpretation of contemporary music. He has been responsible for the commission and premier of works by Rafael Aponte Ledée, Carlos Carrillo, Alberto Rodríguez Ortiz, Carlos Cabrer and William Ortiz. In 2015 he recorded his debut album titled *Fronteras*, a CD dedicated to the music of contemporary composers from Puerto Rico and Cuba. In December 2018 he made his debut as guest soloist with the Puerto Rico Symphony Orchestra with Maximiano Valdés as conductor interpreting Manuel Ponce's *Concierto del Sur*.

As a composer, his works have been performed in Puerto Rico, Spain, Cuba, Italy, El Salvador, the United Kingdom and the United States by groups such as the Soundscapes Festival Sinfonietta, Lontano Ensemble, North South Consonance and the El Salvador Symphony Orchestra.

In 2019 he was awarded the Anthony and Susan Chow Scholarship, which gave him the opportunity to continue his graduate studies in composition at the King's College London under the supervision of Silvina Milstein and Edward Nesbit. He graduated with distinction from said institution and was awarded the Adams Prize in Music for his composition *Memorias de un Paraíso Perdido*.

Among his current projects is his recently formed duo with the world renowned classical guitarist Dieter Hennings. Duo *Contradanza* originated with the purpose of exploring new avenues of repertoire outside the conventional classical guitar duo canon. Hennings and Rivera Pico started collaborating at the SoundSCAPES new music festival in Italy and have joined forces to commission new works and celebrate new pieces written since the last quarter of the twentieth century.

John currently resides in England, where he pursues his doctoral degree at the University of Birmingham under the supervision of Michael Zev Gordon and Ryan Latimer with the support of

a scholarship awarded by the Department of Music.

### **Rafael Aponte-Ledée**

Puerto Rican composer. Aponte-Ledée received a degree in composition in 1964 from the Conservatorio Real de Madrid, where his professors included Enrique Massó, Emilio López, Cales Otero, and Cristóbal Halffter. With a scholarship from the Latin American Center for Higher Musical Studies he continued his graduate studies with Alberto Ginastera and Gerardo Gandini in Buenos Aires at the Instituto Torcuato di Tella. Aponte-Ledée belongs to the generation following self-proclaimed nationalist composers such as Campos Parsi and Amaury Veray. He and other Puerto Rican composers of his generation privilege the use of avant-garde compositional techniques. Although he adheres to Puerto Rican nationalist ideals Aponte-Ledée does not search intentionally to express a national identity through music. In his compositions, he has experimented with serialism, aleatoric music, indeterminacy, electronic music, atonalism, pointillism, and extended instrumental techniques with string, woodwind, and brass instruments. When using popular music rhythms and melodies, he employs quotation as a technique that intends to challenge musical stereotypes. In 1967 he founded Fluxus Group of Puerto Rico, along with Francis Schwartz, with the purpose of disseminating contemporary music. Both composers have been instrumental in promoting avant-garde music in the island and throughout the Caribbean. In 1978 Aponte-Ledée organized the first biennial of the Sociedad Puertorriqueña de Música Contemporánea.

### **Francis Schwartz**

Francis Schwartz was born in the United States in 1940 and grew up in Texas where he studied with the eminent pianist Patricio Gutierrez. He received both B.S. and M.S degrees from Juilliard School in New York City and subsequently was awarded a Ph.D. with highest honors from the University of Paris.

Dr. Schwartz was Dean of Humanities of the University of Puerto Rico where he also held major academic and administrative positions during his 33 year career at the prestigious Caribbean institution. He was decorated by the French government and awarded the Chevalier de l'Ordre des Arts et Lettres. His music is regularly performed around the world and he is particularly noted for his innovative music theater works that frequently incorporate the attending public as active participants in the performance.

His polyartistic creation "Mon Oeuf", a miniature theater-sculpture with electronic sounds, aromas, temperature manipulations and tactile stimulations was premiered in 1979 at the Pompidou Center and later installed at the Museum of Modern Art in Paris. "Mon Oeuf" has

been hailed as a daring achievement in contemporary art. In 2004, his chamber opera “DALI and GALA” was premiered at the Salvador Dali Museum in St. Petersburg, Florida.

Schwartz’s “Chaqui, Chaqui, Bámula” was premiered at the Museo del Barrio in New York City. The New Juilliard Ensemble performed “ Cannibal-Caliban” at the Smithsonian Institution in Washington, D.C. in December, 2009, and the composer’s “ Antigone’s Dream” was premiered in Paris in 2011 by the French Flute Orchestra led by Pierre-Yves Artaud. Sybarite5 gave the first performance of “Cannibal’s Dance” at Carnegie Hall, in 2014. Schwartz’s piano work “Baudelaire’s Uncle,” was played at Lincoln Center and the Brighton Fringe Festival in England by the renowned New Music personality Joel Sachs during 2018.

Schwartz has written works for some of the world’s outstanding artists and ensembles such as Andres Segovia, Gary Karr, Pierre-Yves Artaud, Continuum, The New Juilliard Ensemble, Saint Louis Brass Quintet, Sybarite5, Arioso Trio, 2E2M of Paris, LIM de Madrid, Casals Festival, BONK Festival among many others. He currently pursues an international career while residing in Sarasota, Florida.

ENCUENTRO PUERTORRIQUEÑO DE CREACIÓN MUSICAL / CONCERT 2:  
ALFONSO FUENTES COLÓN, **TROPICAL**, Recital de piano de improvisaciones

Music Building Auditorium  
Friday, March 31, 2023  
6:00 PM

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Alfonso Fuentes, *piano*

*This concert is co-sponsored by Improvisers Exchange*