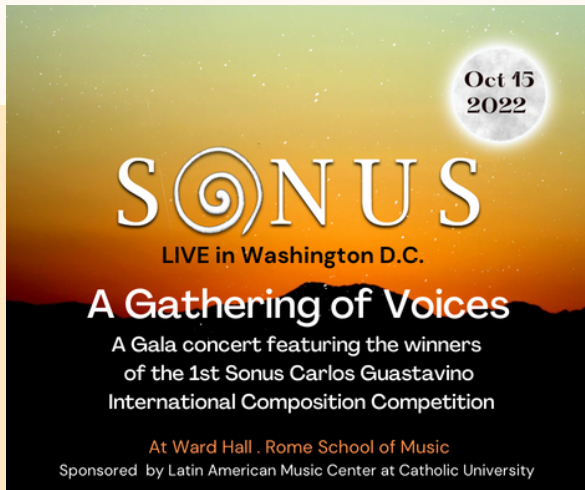


SONUS NEWS



NEWSLETTER

Page 1



From Nancy Roldán, Artistic Director

Inspiration, Creativity, & Gratitude

Dearest friends and supporters,

Greetings and heartfelt thanks for supporting the airings of our festivals, viewed and celebrated across the seas. Despite the challenges we've faced,, it's heartening to witness the manifestation of the best humanity has to offer – the creativity and talent shared by our incomparable artists, who are the essence of SONUS-IMF. This 2022 Newsletter is dedicated to you and your work as creators, parents, teachers, artists, collaborators, and bringers of peace.

Sonus-IMF continues its mission to bring you beautiful music of oft-unheard, under-represented composers from all corners of the world. We're a gathering of voices promoting the search for common ground and understanding as we acknowledge and listen to each other. (continued on p. 2)

Live at last!

We are beyond excited to announce the October 15th in-person gala concert celebrating the 2021 Carlos Guastavino Competition winners, sponsored and presented by the Latin American Music Center at CUA. Please join us in person if you live near the Maryland-Virginia-Washington D.C. area to hear the performances of all these exceptional American premieres, including rarely heard Guastavino pieces.



Sonus Artists Back in Action

We've been very inspired by the experiences and endeavors of our SONUS family of artists during and post-pandemic. Meet our amazing gathering of collaborators, writing from Argentina, Brazil, Italy, Switzerland, Korea, and all over the US, to share the breadth of their accomplishments during this time.





From Nancy cont'd.

For my part, I've continued researching, reading, and writing as my health has improved. In May, I finished the first draft of my book on Carlos Guastavino, our great Sonus-IMF inspiration. I taught a master class in March and presented a lecture recital on Carlos Guastavino's music for teachers, most of whom were new to his work and enchanted by its beauty. Most recently, I was mesmerized by the Van Cliburn competition performances -- so much talent and dedication can move mountains. It reawakened my drive to review repertory and play again. Thank you all for your support, generosity, expertise, and brave spirits, which inspire and strengthen our mission and resolve.

DONATE



Help us support our mission!

Artists Back in Action cont'd.

Composer **JUDAH ADASHI** writes, "In April, I produced two events -- *Rise Bmore* (risebmore.com), a free, annual evening of words and music in honor of Freddie Gray, a young Black man killed by Baltimore police in 2015. The second was the Junior Bach Program (bit.ly/juniorbachprogram) spring concert: premieres of original compositions by local middle schoolers, mentored throughout the academic year by Peabody Conservatory students. In May, the Peabody Youth Orchestra performed my composition *Sestina* for voice and orchestra.

As director of the Latin American Music Center, **GUSTAVO AHUALLI** organized and joined performances such as Music Treasures from the Latin American Music Center Collection, Nuevo Tango: Astor Piazzolla at 100, and a concert of Brazilian music. Upcoming LAMC events include the long-awaited Oct 15th Gala Celebration of the 2021 Carlos Guastavino International Composition Competition. Gustavo is traveling in Argentina to visit family and fulfill engagements in Buenos Aires, La Pampa, and Tucumán.

LYDIA ARTYMIW, pianist, maintains a busy schedule teaching master classes, performing, and serving as juror in several competitions, such as the Van Cliburn Piano Competition First screening, the Juilliard Pre-College Beethoven 3rd Piano Concerto Competition, and the New York International Piano Competition. Performances include chamber music with the Cassatt Quartet.

TOM BENJAMIN, composer, is enjoying retirement in Columbia, MD, and extensive travel to visit family and friends with his wife, Carol.

AUDREY BABCOCK, mezzo-soprano, and **ANDRES VADIN**, guitarist, performed an exciting concert titled *Beyond Carmen*, an homage to Bizet's *Carmen*. Audrey weaves legends of the Old World into a 21st-century musical tapestry that spans generations and genres -- from classical to tango, medieval to modern, with musical partner, guitarist, and arranger, Andrés Vadin. www.audreybabcock.com

Artists cont'd.



JAVIER BRAVO, guitarist, writes from Buenos Aires, Argentina, "Little by little, we're returning to live performances and have resumed normal activities in all academic institutions. My wife Silvana and I were finally able to fulfill our previously planned 2021 engagement in the US in April 2022, presenting duo-guitar recitals and master classes in Connecticut. I send best wishes to all at Sonus-IMF. Saldaña-Bravo <http://duo-saldana-bravo.com.ar/>

Actor **GABRIELLA CAVALLERO** has revived her dialect design and coaching work as theatres have gone back 100%, and she looks forward to her return to stage this fall in *The River Bride* by Marisela Treviño at the Arvada Center for Arts and Humanities. She continues to record audiobooks, having recently narrated her 1200th novel!

ALEJANDRO CREMASCHI, pianist, says, "In addition to the SONUS festival, 2022 presented exciting opportunities for me around the music of neglected composers, including several concerts and conference presentations on music by women and Latin American composers. A research paper I authored that presents concrete data on the dismal levels of diversity in the repertoire performed in pre-college competitions will be published in the peer-reviewed MTNA e-Journal. I'm currently working as co-chair of a new online course focusing on music by Latin American composers (Frances Clark Center for Keyboard Pedagogy)."

Pianist **ANDREW COOPERSTOCK** has a World Premiere recording (Bridge Records) of Stephen Sondheim's *A Little Night Music: Suite for Violin and Piano*, arr. Eric Stern, with William Terwilliger, and a world premiere performance of *A Little Night Music* at 54 Below (NYC) as part of a Leonard Bernstein/Stephen Sondheim program. "I performed Beethoven's Choral Fantasy with the Denver Philharmonic, and I've recently become president of the Colorado Music Teachers Association."

JOSE MIGUEL CUETO, violinist, writes, "I'm very grateful to return to live performances and travel. I particularly enjoyed leading the Maryland Lyric Opera Company Orchestra in *Turandot* and *Don Carlo* performances as well as *The Marriage of Figaro*, at the Clarence Smith Center for the Performing Arts at the University of MD at College Park. In May, I returned to Italy and the Alba Music Festival, performing chamber music and Rachmaninoff's *Serenade Melancholique* and Saint-Saëns' *Rondo Capriccioso* with the Romanian Symphony Orchestra. I look forward to the MDLO Concert In Memoriam Leon Fleisher. Warm greetings to the SONUS family. www.josemiguelcueto.com

GILA GOLDSTEIN, pianist (Boston), reports that in addition to her October performances for Sonus-IMF 2021, she performed Bartok's *15 Hungarian Peasant Songs* for the American Liszt Society Festival, gave a solo recital and master class at the James Madison University, VA, and a solo recital at Palm Beach Atlantic University in Florida. Most recently, she taught and performed at summer music festivals in the Amalfi Coast in Italy, the High Peaks in the Berkshires, and led a master class for BU at the Tanglewood Institute. In all her recitals this past season, she has included Latin-American works by Guastavino, Lecuona, and Villa Lobos. www.gilagoldstein.com

The last year has seen a return to traveling for **ANDREW GERLE**, composer/pianist (NYC), who is juggling multiple theater and recording projects. He is nearing the completion of arrangements for the album *Songs My Mother Taught Me*, with San Francisco-based cellist Jennifer Kloetzel, original transcriptions of vocal music by Rachmaninoff, Strauss, Brahms, Guastavino, Debussy, and more. He has been back and forth to Sicily, working on an album of his original musical *Whisper Darkly* with one of the greatest electro-swing arrangers in the world and recording with local jazz musicians. He has also returned to work as theater orchestrator, completing a show for Chinese composer Cecilia Lin, and will soon begin orchestrating a new show about silent screen star Rudolph Valentino. www.andrewgerle.com

Sonus Artists cont'd.

Pianist **DANIEL GLOVER** writes from San Francisco, "Covid gave me the impetus to focus on learning pieces I wouldn't have learned otherwise. To celebrate the 100th anniversary of Saint-Saëns' death, I learned all 18 of Saint-Saëns' Etudes and recorded them. It was a deeply satisfying experience -- refreshing to learn fugues from a romantic composer, as you don't get to play virtuoso octaves in a Bach fugue. Once in public again, I performed his Concertos Nos. 2 and 4 with organ accompaniment. I also watched over 80 operas from the Met Opera broadcasts! I gave an all-American recital after July 4th, performing Gottschalk, Barber, Rzewski, Gershwin, and short pieces by Dave Brubeck and David Guion — the cowboy composer."



Audrey Babcock

Pianist **ENRIQUE GRAF** was featured soloist with the Montevideo, Uruguay Philharmonic Orchestra in Beethoven's Concerto No. 4, and with the National Symphony Orchestra of Colombia, performing George Gershwin's Concerto in F. He presented recitals in Punta del Este and at the Auditorio Nacional de Uruguay with violinist Daniel Lasca, performing works by Clara Schumann and Claude Debussy and Franz Liszt's Sonata in B minor. The Beethoven Piano Society of Europe, at St. James Piccadilly in London, featured him performing works by Mozart, Beethoven, and Liszt. Later this year, he returns to perform Mozart Concerto No. 13, K. 415 with the Montevideo Philharmonic. www.enriquegraf.com

JORGE VILLAVICENCIO GROSSMANN, composer, writes from Florianópolis, Brazil, "Our lives have changed significantly! Carolyn, Maya, and I welcomed a new member of our family, Gabriella, who was born on Christmas Eve, 2021. She is a healthy, happy baby who's stealing everyone's heart. The pandemic changed us forever. I kept my compositional "muscle" (so to speak) by writing tonal fugues and atonal fugues for one and two pianos. When the pandemic showed signs of letting up, I needed a change. I'm now on leave as a Fulbright scholar in Brazil. It has been a transforming experience for my family."

PABLO LAVANDERA, pianist (NYC), writes, "Summer 2021 marked my return to concertizing, with duo-partner Evelyn Ulex, in our Transatlantic Piano Duo. After NY, we presented back-to-back performances at Stony Brook University. Other collaborations include a performance with violinist Joanna Huang at Carnegie's Weill Recital Hall. Pianist Moshe Knoll and I performed Dvorak in March at the Bohemian National Hall in NYC. A full Argentine music program titled Buenos Aires in the Berkshires is coming up, including two of Guastavino's transcriptions by our own Andrew Gerle, with cellist Kate Dillingham.

EXECUTIVE BOARD

Nancy Roldán, DMA, Founder, Artistic Director
Alejandro Cremaschi, DMA, Executive Director
Gabriella Cavallero, Co-Founder, Producer
Alberto Cavallero, Co-Founder, Producer

DONATE
NOW



Pianist **SANGHIE LEE** writes from Korea, "I resumed meeting audiences through the virtual Korean Channel-News post-10th-anniversary concert talk series in March 2021, from the US. Once we returned to live performances, two other piano faculty at the U. of North Georgia and I planned a fun recital, "Traveling Around the World," which included repertoire from Eastern and Western Europe, Asia, and America. The first performance at UNG in October 2021 was so successful that we later performed at other universities. At my November 2021 recital at UNG, I selected a program to share, *Joy & Sorrow*, knowing we've all experienced big life changes during the pandemic. I'll never forget the interaction with the in-person audience in that recital. In June, I was deeply grateful to meet my Korean audience."

CLÉBER MAURICIO DE LIMA writes from Rondônia, Brazil, "I'm working on developing a website integrated with my social media sites to promote music for voice and piano by Argentine, Brazilian, and Latin American composers. I will also use the media network to promote other channels, like YouTube Sonus, that produce content on topics that interest us. www.cleberdelima.unir.br

ADVISORY BOARD

Gustavo Ahualli
 Andrew Cooperstock
 José Cueto
 Andrew Gerle
 Gila Goldstein
 Enrique Graf
 Robert Johnson, Esq.
 Carolene Mallonee
 Silvina Mansilla
 Solange Merdinian
 Shawn Carter Peterson
 Lilia Salsano
 Jorge Villavicencio-Grossmann

Sonus Artists cont'd.

Composer **CAROLINE MALLONEE** writes, "I had eleven premieres this past season. Among them, choral works performed by The Cecelia Chorus of NY, commissioned and premiered with *Streaks of Light*, a 30-minute piece for choir, violin, bass clarinet, and harp, words by Shakespeare; Centus Women's Chorus premiered the a cappella piece they commissioned in celebration of the centennial of the 19th amendment (The Right and True.) In addition to the premieres of new instrumental pieces, I was also pleased to have my music performed by the Boston Pops and Present Music. I received awards and recognitions including The Institute for Choral Creativity First Prize." www.carolinemallonee.com

SILVINA LUZ MANSILLA, musicologist, writes from Buenos Aires, "In April 2022, I lead a presentation on Guastavino Studies in the Fifth Congress of the International Musicological Society "ARLAC/IMS", a branch dedicated to Latin America and the Caribbean. I presented, "Exploraciones sobre el pianismo de Carlos Guastavino. Un mundo del arte hispano-argentino." The event took place at the International University of Andalucía (Baéza, España.) <https://silvinaluzmansilla.academia.edu/>

Recent highlights for pianist **AGUSTIN MURIAGO**, pianist, (Baltimore) include a performance for the Dame Myra Hess Memorial Concert Series at the Chicago Cultural Center, a master class at the University of South Dakota, and a presentation for the Group Piano and Piano Pedagogy Forum. He joined the Yamaha Artist roster in 2021. www.agustinmuriago.com

Pianist **LILIA SALSANO** writes from Santa Fe, Argentina, "In February 2022, I was commissioned by the International Latin American Music Society in the UK to make the audiovisual recording of Anglo-Tangos, tangos written by English composers, curated by Helen Gleisher-Hernandez, released and available to watch on the "On Jam TV" platform. The second of my 3 CDs of the complete works by Carlos Guastavino, *Presencias*, was released! The first 2 albums are available on every digital music platform through the Shagrada Medra Digital label. <http://www.liliasalsano.com.ar>

Pianist **SALVATORE SCLAFANI** (Italy) continues his appointment as Piano Teaching Assistant at the Conservatoire Royal de Bruxelles (Belgium.) In Fall 2021, he participated in the radio program Table d'écoute - Musiq'3 RTBF in Belgium. During the AEC European Platform for Artistic Research in Music EPARM Conference 2022 in London, UK, he presented his paper: *From folk culture to piano performance: a performance-oriented analysis of the influence of Argentinian folk dances in Alberto Ginastera's Suite de Danzas Criollas*, op. 15.

LIZA STEPANOVA, pianist, reports, "My trio, Lysander Piano Trio, has started touring around the country again after COVID. A particular highlight (which you will enjoy knowing!) is our new collaboration with the great Argentinian bandoneon player, JP Jofre. This project was showcased at the Chamber Music America National Conference in January, and we'll be touring together in spring. I'm teaching and performing at Songfest this summer. In August, I'm premiering a new Trio for saxophone, flute, and piano commissioned for me by a private donor from acclaimed composer Lowell Liebermann. www.lizastepanova.com

FERNANDO VIANI, pianist, writes from Bern, Switzerland, "Last year, **GUILLERMO ANZORENA** and I recorded songs by Guastavino and Piazzolla, and the second Ginastera Sonata for German Radio SWR2. In May, we presented a live concert at the same radio as part of the Schwetzingen Festival, performing songs by Carlos Guastavino, Hugo Wolf, Henri Duparc, and Claude Debussy. The concerts may be heard at the SWR2 site. Right now, Guillermo is touring with the Vokal Ensemble Stuttgart. Our big project - recording Guastavino's music - is on the horizon. In May '22, I performed a solo program dedicated to Argentine composers. In the 2nd half of '22, I'll perform Messaien's quartet for the end of times at the Bern Musik Festival."

FROM OUR COMPETITION FINALISTS

GABRIEL ABEDI, I Prize: Carlos Guastavino International CC '21, writes from Italy, "My violin and piano work *Song of Joy* will be published this fall, as a result of my 2021 award from the US composition competition "Celebrating Diversity in Strings' Composition." Most recently, I finished *Eweland Rhapsody*, for orchestra and large percussion section (9 percussionists!) — a long and difficult but beautiful journey. This piece is the result of my long study of the music of the Ewe people of Ghana -- work I plan to continue in my quest to discover the musical traditions of my country, elevating them through my music."

BRACHA BDIL, II Prize shared, writes from Israel, "A few of my compositions won 1st prize, among them, In Memory of Voices for chamber ensemble, at the Maestros Vision Awards International Composition Competition, China. In 2021 I received first prize in the Orchestra Category for Mediterranean Suite for Symphony Orchestra and in the Chamber Music category for In a Folk Style at the "Donne In Musica" XVIII Composition Competition in Belgrade. In March, a concert dedicated to my works took place in Israel."

INCI YAKAR BIROL, II Prize shared, writes from Turkey, "Apart from completing my CD-Album Homage to Saygun, I served as a jury member for the second time at the Euplay International Piano Competition, in which two of my students received Ultimate Prizes. I gave several recitals, solo, with chamber orchestra, and 3 chamber music concerts in European halls." www.inciyakarbirol.com

ISRAEL RUIZ AYALA, Honorable Mention, writes from Mexico, "In 2021, I received II prize at the Fidelio Piano composition competition in Spain and was a finalist in the Valley Winds International composition competition held in Massachusetts. I'm concentrating now on the final project for the master's degree, for which I'm writing and performing a piano concerto."

WOLFGANG ORDOÑEZ PEÑA, Honorable Mention, writes from Colombia, "After October 2021, I won First Prize in the National Composition Competition for Symphonic Band, organized by the District Program for the Advancement of Culture, and received a scholarship from the Pontificia Universidad Javeriana in Bogotá D.C., to continue my master's degree studies in Music. My work, *Fanfarria y pajarillo* was included in the Colombia Youth Philharmonic Orchestra's European 2022 tour."

Thank you 