



**SONATINAS & LULLABIES**

April 15, 2023

**111<sup>th</sup> Birthday Celebration**

**Carlos Guastavino**

Argentina 04/05/1912 - 10/28/2000

**TRES SONATINAS PARA PIANO (1949)**

*Three Sonatinas for Piano*

**I**

To Isidro B. Maiztegui

**MOVIMIENTO**

*movement*

**Lilia Salsano**

**II**

To María Inés Gómez Carrillo

**RETAMA**

*scotch bush*

**Gila Goldstein**

**III**

To Rudolf Firkusny

Premiere: June 17, 1951, Broadway Theater, Buenos Aires

**DANZA**

*dance*

**Inci Yakar Birol**

**TRES CANCIONES DE CUNA PARA CORO MIXTO A CAPELLA (1967)**

*Three Lullabies for Choral Ensemble A Capella*

**Poems by Gabriela Mistral**

Chile 04/07/1889 - USA 01/10/1957

*From the Cycle "Ternura"*

**MIEDO**

*fear*

**YO NO TENGO SOLEDAD**

*I am not alone*

**LA NOCHE**

*the night*

**PING**

*Vocal Ensemble of St. Mary's College of Maryland*

**Larry Vote, Director**

Annabelle Adams  
Kathryn Choyna  
Carolyn Colina  
Thomas Dolan

Lannon Fritts  
Sadie Gryzmalski  
Emma Hckabee  
Conor O'Callaghan

Fredys Cruz Sorto  
Kathryn St. Laurent  
Micah Taylor  
Aiden Tramontana

## ARTISTS' BIOGRAPHIES

**İnci Yakar Birol**, pianist and composer, studied at MSGSU Istanbul State Conservatory and at the Hochschule für Musik Saar (Germany). Piano recordings and concerts in Europe and Turkey include SR-2 Cultural Radio recordings, concerts at the the Schwetzingen Mozart Festival, Luxembourg Philharmonic, Metz-Arsenal (France), and at CRR, AKM and CSO halls in Turkey. She is currently Associate Professor at MSGSU Istanbul State Conservatory, where she teaches piano and chamber music. In 2021, she was awarded 2nd prize in the *Sonus International Carlos Guastavino Composition Competition*. Her first solo album as a pianist and composer "Homage to Saygun" was released on the Çağsav Music label. On 15 October 2022 she made her American debut performing her composition, *A book with a Voice*, and works by Ahmet Adnan Saygun on the first Sonus-IMF concert presented live at CUA in Washington, DC. [www.inciyakarbirol.com](http://www.inciyakarbirol.com)

Pianist **Gila Goldstein** is known as a versatile musician and has captivated audiences around the world with her unique artistry and soulful interpretations. Ms. Goldstein has performed as a solo artist and collaborative pianist throughout the United States, Canada, Mexico, China, Korea, the Philippines, Europe, and Israel. Ms. Goldstein is a sought-after pedagogue who has conducted numerous master classes in the USA, China, and Korea. She is currently a member of the piano faculty at Longy School of Music in Boston and Brown University in Providence. A champion of the music of Israel's leading composer Paul Ben-Haim for over two decades as a performer and recording artist, Ms. Goldstein has recorded two volumes of his entire piano and chamber works on the Centaur label. She obtained her music degrees in piano performance from the Manhattan School of Music, where she studied with Prof. Nina Svetlanova and the Tel-Aviv University's School of Music where she studied with Prof. Victor Derevianko.

Please visit her web site at [www.gilagoldstein.com](http://www.gilagoldstein.com)

**Lilia Salsano** is an outstanding Argentine pianist of worldwide acclaim. She frequently performs at prestigious International Festivals, including the "Festival Martha Argerich" (Buenos Aires) the "Echoes Festival of Classical Latin Music" (London) and the "Festival Pianistico Internazionale" (Italy). A passionate ambassador for Argentine and Latin-American composers, she is the first Argentine pianist to record the Complete Piano Works by Carlos Guastavino (released 2020). Salsano is resident pianist of the Symphony Orchestra of Santa Fe Province. She is a graduate of the Universidad del Litoral (Santa Fe, Argentina) and a faculty member at the Liceo Municipal of Santa Fe. A versatile interpreter, she recently performed the Stravinsky Concerto for piano and 13 wind instruments with the National Symphony Orchestra at Teatro Colón in Buenos Aires. She is currently presenting the works of Guastavino throughout Argentina in her "*Guastavino, GirArgentina*" "2023 tour. On April 5, she made her debut in the theatrical production of "Esencia Guastavino, tu corazón su casa" in Santa Fe, Argentina. [www.liliasalsano.com.ar](http://www.liliasalsano.com.ar)

**Larry Edward Vote**, director of *The PING Vocal Ensemble of St. Mary's College of Maryland*, is Professor of Music and former Provost of St. Mary's College of Maryland. An accomplished vocal soloist and conductor, he has performed throughout the United States and Europe, including at Weill Recital at Carnegie Hall, and the Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts. Mr. Vote may be heard performing music of Bach, Handel, and Telemann on two compact discs published by Crystal Records as well as the premier of William Thomas McKinley's "Dallas 1963" with the Slovak Radio Orchestra on MMC Recordings. Other recordings include his conducting of new brass music on "Hearing the Call" and as baritone in Blacher's "Romeo and Juliet." He has performed or conducted premiers of the music of David Froom, Thomas McKinley, and Gian Carlo Menotti among others.

## TRANSLATIONS

*Tres canciones de Cuna* from the Cycle "Temura" by Gabriela Mistral  
By Gabriella Cavallero

## MIEDO

Yo no quiero que a mi niña  
golondrina me la vuelvan  
Se hunde volando en el cielo  
y no baja hasta mi estera.  
En el alero hace nido  
y mis manos no la peinan.

Yo no quiero que a mi niña  
la vayan a hacer princesa.  
Con zapatitos de oro  
cómo juega en las praderas  
y cuando llega la noche  
a mi lado no se acuesta.

Y menos quiero que un día  
me la vayan a hacer reina.  
La subirían al trono  
adonde mis pies no llegan,  
cuando viniese la noche  
ya no podría mecerla.

## YO NO TENGO SOLEDAD

Es la noche desamparo  
de las sierras hasta el mar,  
pero yo la que te mece,  
yo no tengo soledad.

Es el cielo desamparo  
si la luna cae al mar,  
pero yo la que te estrecha,  
yo no tengo soledad.

Es el mundo desamparo  
y la carne triste va,  
pero yo la que te oprime,  
yo no tengo soledad.

## LA NOCHE

Porque duermas hijo mío  
el ocaso arde más.  
No hay más brillo que el rocío,  
más blancura que mi faz.

Porque duermes hijo mío  
el camino enmudeció,  
nadie gime si no el río  
nada existe si no yo.

Se anegó de niebla el llano,  
se encogió el suspiro azul,  
se ha posado como mano  
sobre el mundo la quietud.

Yo no sólo fui meciendo  
a mi niño en mi cantar.  
A la tierra iba durmiendo  
al vaivén del acunar.

## FEAR

I don't want my little girl  
to be turned into a swallow.  
She flies sinking into sky  
and does not come back home.  
She nests under the eaves  
and my hands can't comb her hair.

I don't want my little girl  
to be turned into a princess.  
With little gold shoes  
she plays in the meadows,  
and when night falls  
she doesn't lay by my side.

Most of all I don't want her  
to be crowned a queen.  
She'd be raised up on a throne  
where my feet can't reach.  
When night fell  
I couldn't rock her to sleep.

## I AM NOT ALONE

The night is deserted  
from the mountains to the sea,  
But I, the one who rocks you,  
I am not alone.

The sky is deserted  
if the moon falls to the sea,  
but I, the one who holds you,  
I am not alone.

The world is deserted  
mortals sadly trudging on,  
but I, the one who hugs you,  
I am not alone.

## THE NIGHT

So that you may sleep, my son,  
the sunset burns brighter.  
There's no shine like the dew,  
no light like my face.

Because you sleep, my son,  
the road became silent,  
no one whines but the river  
nothing exists if not me.

The plain flooded with haze,  
the blue breath withdrew.  
A quiet has fallen,  
like a hand, over the world.

It wasn't just my son  
I rocked with my song,  
I lulled the earth to sleep  
with the swaying cradle hum.



## PROGRAM NOTES

Nancy Roldán

Music by Carlos Guastavino

Tonight, we're proud to bring two rarely heard and fascinating works to our Sonus audience: *Three Sonatinas* for piano solo and *Three Lullabies for chorus a Capella* by Carlos Vicente Guastavino. These works display Guastavino's lyrical vein and his mastery with seemingly paradoxical goals: complex, luscious harmonies on one hand and deceptively simple melodic statements on the other, presented in counterpoint.

### **Tres Sonatinas.** *Three Sonatinas.* (1949)

Guastavino dedicated each of these **Sonatinas** to fellow musicians. **Movimiento** was written for internationally renowned film composer Isidro Buenaventura Maiztegui, who was born in Entre Ríos in 1905. Maiztegui and Guastavino were both composition students of Athos Palma in Buenos Aires.

**Retama** is dedicated to Argentine pianist María Inés Gómez-Carrillo and **Danza** is dedicated to Czech pianist Rudolf Firkusny. Gómez-Carrillo and Firkusny share a common connection to Guastavino - their contribution to the successful diffusion of an earlier work: his 1945 Sonatina in G-minor. Firkusny performed the world premiere at Teatro Colón in Buenos Aires on 12 July 1945, and Gómez-Carrillo subsequently performed the American premiere at Carnegie Hall on 29 October 1947.

The Three Sonatinas can be performed separately or together as a cycle. Per Guastavino's notation, they are inspired by Argentine folk rhythms which he calls "popular" without citing any specific dance forms. These pieces parade singable melodies on a foundation of evocative rhythms. Thematically (though subtly connected, the three pieces are written in sonata form.

### **Tres Canciones de Cuna.** *Three Lullabies.* (1967)

Poetry was a life-long source of inspiration for Carlos Guastavino. During one of our conversations at his home in Buenos Aires, he observed "When I like a poem - one that gives me goose bumps - I hear the music that goes with it. There is something in my brain that associates music and words." One of his muses was the poetry of Gabriela Mistral, as he set 15 of her poems into song over the span of several decades. Composed in 1967, the **Three Lullabies** in tonight's performance, are based on three poems from Mistral's *Ternura* cycle. They embody that most precious relationship, the love between mother and child, expressing different facets of what that love represents.

Regarding the first of tonight's lullabies, *Miedo*, it is possible he had considered including this poem among his 1940 cycle of *Six Lullabies* for voice and piano, as there is an incomplete manuscript of that version in the Guastavino Family Archives in Santa Fe.

The musical setting for tonight's *a capella* lullabies is mostly modal. The modal language must have become familiar to Guastavino as a young, self-taught organist who improvised every day during the arrival of his classmates at Colegio de la Inmaculada and accompanied Sunday masses as well, in an era when Gregorian Chant was the fundamental source of musical inspiration during Catholic mass. In this triptych of Lullabies, Guastavino reveals his contrapuntal mastery, employing uncomplicated melodies which sound as ancient as humanity. In *Miedo* - written in F-major or Ionian mode - his contrapuntal setting suggests plainchant, while the Aeolian and Hypomixolydian modes prevail in *Yo no tengo soledad* and *La noche*.



**Gabriela Mistral** was born Lucila Godoy Alcayaga in Chile on April 7 of 1889. In 1945 she was awarded the Nobel Prize in Literature, becoming the first Latin-American author to receive such distinction. Recognized as “the great singer of mercy and motherhood,” her works in prose and verse address the many facets of love and relationships. An educator, she took active part in social issues, defending the rights of women, children, and native peoples, including their right to education. With her childhood home always in her heart, she traveled the world, finally establishing herself in the USA. A few weeks after a final visit to Chile, she died while hospitalized in Hempstead, Long Island, on January 10, 1957. Regarding the lullabies, she refers to these pieces as writing “poetry for school” which must be “more delicate than any other, saturated of things of the heart, affected by the breath of the soul.”

There are parallels in the life of Gabriela Mistral and Carlos Guastavino. Their love and longing for their country, for nature, for animals, for people, for beauty, their choices to live a modest quasi-Franciscan life, and an ecumenical sense of spirituality that originated from a Catholic upbringing.

In a letter Mistral wrote to Guastavino from Brazil, dated 20 January 1943, she expressed her love for music and thanked him for making her “feel like a friend, which she considered a true grace.” This unique document refers to Guastavino’s settings of her poems to music, which included the above mentioned *six lullabies* 1940 for voice and piano.

#### SOURCES

##### **La obra musical de Carlos Guastavino**

*Circulación. Recepción. Mediaciones*

Silvina Luz Mansilla

Gourmet Musical Editions, Buenos Aires, Argentina

Additional information from “Silvina and Nancy Conversations 2023”  
Unpublished documents from the *Album Familiar Guastavino*, Santa Fe, Argentina.  
“*Guastavino Family Archives*”

##### **Interviews 1987-1988 // Correspondence 1987-1993**

Carlos Guastavino and Nancy Roldán

##### **Gabriela Mistral**

Poetry Foundation: Online Article by  
Santiago Daydí-Tolson, University of Texas at San Antonio

#### **SONUS UPCOMING EVENT 2023**

##### **The Carlos Guastavino International Composition Competition**

The competition encourages the creation of works inspired in cultural folk traditions that reflect the composer’s ancestry.

*What’s your story?*

*for information visit the Sonus website*



## **SPECIAL THANKS**

To the artists. To all who cooperated to bring this program to life. To our generous contributors.

## **CREDITS**

**Nancy Roldán**

*Artistic Director*

**Alejandro Cremaschi**

*Executive Director*

**Gabriella Cavallero**

*Narrator*

**Alberto Cavallero**

*Assistant Producer*

**Silvina Luz Mansilla**

*Historian*

## **RECORDINGS BY**

**Gila Goldstein**

*Retama*

Pickman Hall | Longy School of Music, Boston, Massachusetts, USA

Video/Audio Recording: Geoffrey Edwards and Nicoleta Savvidou

Recorded March 2023

**Lilia Salsano**

*Movimiento*

Usina del Arte de la Ciudad Autónoma de Buenos Aires, Argentina | Sala de Cámara

Tour "Guastavino GirArgentina"

Video: Daniel Olguín | Sound: Equipo de Sonido de la Usina del Arte

Recorded in Concert, 12 March 2023

**Inci Yakar-Birol**

*Danza*

Istanbul Painting and Sculpture Museum, Turkey

IRHM İstanbul ve Resim Heykel Müzesi

Recorded March 2023

**PING Vocal Ensemble | Larry Vote, Director**

*Three a Capella Lullabies*

The Auditorium of the Nancy and Norton Dodge Center for the Performing Arts

St' Mary's College of Maryland, USA

Recording Engineer: Keith Hinton | Video Engineer: David Taylor for Phocus Video

March 2023